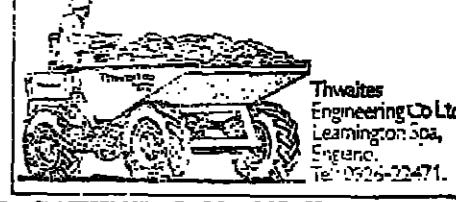


JP/AL/150

Thwaites
Aldridge 6000 Dumper.



NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Burst dam kills 1,000

At least 1,000 people were killed when a dam broke and flooded a town in Gujarat State, western India. Within minutes about 60 per cent of the town of Morvi was submerged under 13 feet of water. The earthwork wall of the Machhu dam was breached by the pressure of water running 15 feet above normal levels after two weeks of monsoon rains.

People living in some low-lying areas were evacuated in many others were swept away or trapped by the rushing waters.

strong man goes

Afghan Vice-President and army strong man Abu Gasim has been stripped of all political posts by President Jafar Khan. The move is seen as heralding a restructuring of the country's political framework. Page 2.

Breakaway races

Four of the world's leading racing motor cyclists, including Britain's Barry Sheene, are to set up a new series—provisionally called World Series Racing—with prizes totalling £100,000 a meeting. They will withdraw from existing Grand Prix events whose organisational standards they criticise.

No Israel poll

Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin ruled out the possibility of early elections but hinted at a major reshuffle. Before making any changes he will consult each Minister individually.

Alan Jones wins

Austrian Grand Prix was won by Australian Alan Jones in a Saudi-Williams with Canadian Gilles Villeneuve (Ferrari) second. It was Jones' second successive Grand Prix win but South African Jody Scheckter still heads the world championship table.

ITV stays off

Independent television screens are likely to stay blacked out until Wednesday at the earliest. The three unions involved in the dispute will meet on Monday to reach a deal with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service tomorrow. Page 4.

Meat poisoned

Deadly potassium cyanide was injected into meat in a supermarket at Aalborg, Denmark. Police used radio broadcasts and loudspeaker appeals in an effort to reach scores of people who bought the meat.

Troops out

Nearly 10,000 people marched through central London to call for the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland. About half that number joined Belfast troops out to march organised by the Provisional Sinn Fein. Page 4.

Drink law studied

The Government is considering tightening up drink-driving laws to reduce the growing number of accidents involving motorists who have been drinking. Back Page.

Briefly...

Gas board officials are investigating an explosion which killed an invalid in his bed through the ceiling and wrecked his house in Fartown, Huddersfield.

Pop festival in Knebworth Park, Herts, ended with 27 arrests but police praised the conduct of most of the 30,000 fans.

Police are hunting the thief who stole an ambulance while its crew were attending an emergency in South London.

BUSINESS

Moves to support Danish krone

BY ELINOR GOODMAN

The British Government is expected to let it be known discreetly in Salisbury this week that Mr. Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, would not be welcome at next month's constitutional conference in London.

Publicly, the Government will not stipulate who should attend the talks from Salisbury. But in private British officials are expected to make it clear that Mr. Smith's presence would be regarded as unhelpful.

The invitations, along with the draft constitutional changes, will not be sent out until later this week. But already at the weekend, those leaders expecting to be invited were taking up negotiation positions.

In Salisbury, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, said that Nigeria's attendance would be "absolutely unacceptable." The Bishop has up to now insisted that only the British Government, his own Government and various nationalist groups, including the two wings of the Patriotic Front, be invited to attend the talks. His Cabinet will meet tomorrow to consider its response.

The omission of any mention of the "frontline" states seems to indicate some willingness to retreat from a hard position, though the signs in London were that in any case only representatives of the British Government and the various parties directly involved in Rhodesia would actually be asked to sit round the conference table. The rest would be present as observers.

Mr. Joshua Nkomo, joint leader of the Patriotic Front, indicated in Cairo that he would attend the London conference. The response from Mr. Robert Mugabe, the other leader of the Patriotic Front, may depend on the attitude of President Samora Machel of Mozambique, according to Commonwealth diplomats. If he supports the Commonwealth way, Mr. Mugabe, whose forces are based in Mozambique, would be forced to come to London.

Work has already started on drafting the proposed new constitution, and it is hoped that a draft will be ready to send out with the invitations this week. Behind-the-scenes diplomacy will then be used to try to remove the many obstacles which Ministers could prevent an agreement.

Mr. Derek Day, the senior Foreign Office official who has been the Government's link man in Salisbury, left for Rhodesia at the weekend and is expected to begin talks immediately. As well as seeing Bishop Muzorewa, the British Government may well try to have informal talks with the leaders of the Patriotic Front.

Nevertheless, it has been made clear to Bishop Muzorewa before that British Ministers believe Mr. Smith will eventually have to leave the Salisbury Government if it is to gain international recognition.

Ministers are by no means confident that Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Mugabe will attend the talks. The Government is ready to let the Patriotic Front know the absence of its leaders will not invalidate any agreement reached, even in the lifting of sanctions.

It is not affected by direct taxes. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, has argued since his Budget on June 12 that the switch from direct to indirect taxes will mean that most households will be better off than before the changes during the rest of the financial year. He has claimed that about 5 per cent of the possible retail price increases has already been compensated by the income tax cuts.

The timing of publication and detailed presentation still have to be approved by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, but the new index is likely to appear on Friday alongside the existing retail prices index.

The new indicator is intended to show the take-home pay of the average family after taking account of income tax cuts and of higher prices due to the rise in indirect taxes.

But Sir Geoffrey's claims have already been contested by trade union and Labour Party leaders. They have argued that any new index would have no effect on forthcoming pay negotiations.

There is also some scepticism among Government supporters about the effectiveness of the new index in this respect.

Leading City analysts have estimated the increase in the retail prices index last month at between 3% and 5% per cent.

The Budget is officially estimated to have increased prices by 4 per cent, mostly in July, and the recent underlying monthly increase has been between 4 and 17 per cent.

The hope in Whitehall is that the new indicator will help to moderate wage claims in the coming pay round by showing a broader picture than the retail prices index.

However, some of the impact of the increase in VAT may not have been passed on in higher prices yet, because of price-cutting during the summer sales.

But the increase in the prices index in July 1978 was only

Continued on Back Page

Index of take-home pay likely later this week

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A NEW tax and price index of real take-home pay is likely to be published by the Government later this week, in an attempt to counteract the announcement of a record monthly increase in retail prices, probably of about 4 per cent.

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Continued on Back Page

Chrysler aid plea by governors

BY JOHN WYLES IN NEW YORK

IN THE battle over Federal aid for the struggling Chrysler Corporation of the U.S., governors of six large industrial states have sent a bipartisan appeal to President Jimmy Carter.

The possibility of supplementary aid from individual states is also to be explored by Governor William Milliken of Michigan whose state has 75,000 Chrysler employees living there.

At Governor Milliken's initiative he and his fellow Democrat, Governor Hugh Carey of New York, have sent a joint appeal to the President with the Republican governors of Delaware, Missouri, Ohio and Illinois. Large numbers of Chrysler workers live in all these states.

They argued that the Government is obliged to help find a solution to Chrysler's difficulties

because they stem partly from the need to find investment for changes made necessary by Federal laws on fuel economy and emission.

But a sharply different view

is emerging from two Congressmen who will play a key role in the scrutiny of any Government proposals. Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the Senate banking committee, is making known his strong dislike of a Federal solution for Chrysler because of its possible impact on other companies and the economy.

Congressman Henry Reuss, chairman of the House banking committee, has issued a statement with heavy emphasis on the invitation to other U.S. or foreign companies to acquire Chrysler plants "to make needed products like mass transit and rail equipment vehicles."

In remarks released at the

weekend, President Carter focused the Administration's demand for sacrifices from all concerned at Chrysler with the suggestion that the company's management forgo scheduled salary increases and bonuses so as to save "tens of millions of dollars."

Chrysler, however, did not pay any normal management bonuses last year and has no known plans to pay any this year. Salary increases for executives are also very unlikely in view of the company's request that its manual workers accept a two-year freeze.

But the fact of Chrysler being seen to help itself will be extremely important to the outcome of the Administration's apparently reluctant move towards granting the company possibly up to \$750m of loan guarantees.

All business is based on risk. You can minimise those risks by getting the very soundest professional advice about how to run every aspect of your business really cost-effectively - and acting promptly on that advice.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Cossiga given unenthusiastic confidence vote

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE THREE-PARTY coalition of Sig. Francesco Cossiga, which has promised to concentrate on economic issues, yesterday won its vote of confidence in Parliament, thus formally ending the country's 193-day Government crisis.

The margin in the Assembly was 45 votes (287-342), thanks to the abstention of the Socialists who hold the balance of power.

The debate preceding the vote left no doubt, however, about the lack of enthusiasm for Sig Cossiga's Government, made up of his own Christian Democrats, the Social Democrats, and Liberals. It is designed to last only as long as is necessary to find a more durable understanding between the parties.

The confusion of Italy's longest post-war crisis has coincided with publication of the latest trade figures. These show that for the first six

months of 1979 imports exceeded exports by £1,335m lire (£735m) against a deficit of only £172m in the same period last year.

For June alone, however, the out-turn was a surplus of £15.24bn, with exports of £5.234bn, narrowly topping imports of £5.219bn. It also compares with a deficit of £7.02bn in May.

Irreducibly more costly oil products lie behind the overall deterioration since last year. But most strikingly, exports of clothing and textiles in the first six months rose 34 per cent to £3.375bn to cover much of the oil deficit in that period of 19,000m.

France's clampdown last week on knitwear imports reflects the success of Italian exporters in this sector. The Italian industry has criticised the French measures as unworthy of all political posts. The dismissal is seen as heralding major changes in the country's political framework.

President Nimirai

Nimirai dismisses party chief

By Alan Darby in Khartoum

PRESIDENT JAAFAR NIMIRAI of Sudan has stripped his former Vice-President and army strong man, Major Abul Gasim Mohammad Ibrahim, of all

political posts. The dismissal is

seen as heralding major changes in the country's political framework.

Major Abul Gasim, one of the officers who helped President Nimirai into power in May 1969, has been a staunch supporter of Sudan's only political organisation, the Sudanese Socialist Union, which was created by President Nimirai to replace the multi-party system of the 1960s. President Nimirai made a scathing attack on the party leadership last week.

Until yesterday Major Abul Gasim held the key post of party secretary-general. His removal from the political scene at a time of economic crisis and a report in the semi-governmental Press that President Nimirai is to make important announcements in a few days, have led to intense speculation in the capital, Khartoum.

The President is expected to make radical changes in the political set-up in an attempt to demonstrate that he is doing something to solve the country's economic problems.

The institute tends to play down the assumption that the Free Democrats would suffer at the next election because of a polarised campaign between Herr Schmidt and Herr Strauss.

But the figures do indicate that fringe parties, including the Ecologists, could eat into the Free Democrats' votes.

According to the latest poll, 3.7 per cent of the 2,000-strong sample would be prepared to vote for fringe parties compared to 0.9 per cent in the 1976 elections.

THE CHANCES appeared to have dimmed yesterday for the establishment of links between the U.S. and the Palestine Liberation Organisation and for the involvement of Palestinians in the talks on autonomy for the west bank of the Jordan. Separate statements by President Carter and Mr. Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, suggested that the two sides had reached an impasse.

Mr. Carter told a group of U.S. editors at the weekend that the U.S. stood by its commitment to Israel not to treat the PLO until it recognised Israel's right to exist as enshrined in United Nations Resolution 242. The same

promise was made privately last week to Israel, which has become increasingly nervous about a possible U.S. policy switch towards the PLO.

Mr. Arafat, in an interview in the Washington Star yesterday, said the PLO wanted to open above-board relations with the U.S. "as soon as possible." He did not rule out that his organisation might come to recognise Israel. "I'm not going to put my cards on the table," he said.

But further attempts by the U.S. to find a solution will be made when Mr. Robert Strauss, Mr. Carter's double-shoehorn on the autonomy talks, returns to the Middle East later this week. The United Nations debate on possible amendments to Resolution 242 is due to open in 10 days' time.

David Lemon reports from Tel Aviv: Mr. Menahem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, ruled out the possibility of early elections yesterday but hinted that he might reshuffle his Cabinet. Mr. Begin called on Ministers to stop public bickering and to turn over a new page in their personal relations.

Mr. Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister, angered his colleagues last week when he accused the Cabinet of incompetence in domestic affairs and said the Ministers were destroying the Government from within.

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Ericsson and Philips win new Saudi telephone deal

BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE, NORDIC EDITOR, IN STOCKHOLM

M. ERICSSON of Sweden and N.V. Philips of the Netherlands have won a new \$800m (£357m) order from the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

It enlarges the \$1.75m contract for the extension of the Saudi telephone system which they awarded in January last year, despite tough competition from U.S. consortia headed by ITT and Western Electric. It was the largest single order in the history of the telecommunications industry.

The addition to the contract, amounting to 2.75m Saudi rials, will be for more switching equipment and cables, and associated civil works, according to the announcement from Ericsson.

Some of the exchanges included in the original contract are to be enlarged. That contract provided for the installation of 470,000 subscriber-controlled telephone

tration and maintenance of the system for five years.

The larger part of the new order is likely to benefit the South Korean construction company Daewoo, which has been engaged by the Philips-Ericsson group to execute the civil works.

Ericsson would not state how large its share of the new order would be but it must represent a boost of at least \$100m to its order book. The original contract brought Ericsson business worth some \$450m.

The expanded order is expected to be completed within the three-year time schedule of the original contract. Ericsson and Philips have some 8,000 men in Saudi Arabia and work on the project is reported to be ahead of schedule.

Winning the contract in 1978 was regarded as a decisive breakthrough for the European companies in the field of computer-controlled telephone

exchanges. It gave the final accolade to Ericsson's AXE stored programme control exchanges and represented the first major step outside the Turkish industry sources said.

ANKARA — ASEA-Atom of Sweden has opened new talks here with Turkish officials on a plan to build Turkey's first nuclear power plant at Akkuyu near the Mediterranean coast, Turkish industry sources said.

They said the negotiations, broken off several weeks ago, have now been reopened between ASEA-Atom and officials of the State-run Turkish Energy Authority.

The sources said the Turkish side was insisting on a 100 per cent guaranteed credit from the Swedish company for the full projected cost of the plant of \$500m (£225m) at 1978 prices.

ASEA-Atom has so far offered \$8 per cent, they added.

The survey said the quarter would occupy 5.8m square metres and would have about 7,000 homes as well as schools, mosques, fire stations, civil defence and other facilities.

Reuter

More UK ties with Alberta urged

BY FRANK GRAY

THE LONDON Committee for Visible Exports is anxious to see more British financial institutions become established in Alberta, the Western Canadian province where oil development has made it the country's most prosperous region.

Mr. William Clarke, the committee's director general, said at the weekend that this would enable British and European institutions to participate in the economic development of the province and to give Alberta's business better access to European money markets through London.

Mr. Clarke, also a director of Bingley's Bank, said the committee was currently assessing the business potential of Alberta, following a week-long visit to the province in June by 12 leading British business men.

Members of the mission led by Lord Polworth, former governor of the Bank of Scotland, were drawn from the major clearing banks, merchant banks and brokerage houses.

During the group's stay in the province, it made separate presentations to both the government and private sectors in the City's role in inter-

national banking, insurance and other services.

The committee also proposed a job exchange programme between the two financial communities. Such an exchange would allow bankers, stockbrokers, investment advisers and Government financial officers from Alberta and London to acquire a first hand knowledge of each other's financial techniques.

Underlying the committee's interest was the immense wealth from the province's petroleum industry and oil extraction plants in the Athabasca sandstone of north-central Alberta.

This had helped give Alberta the highest standard of living in the country, with per capita income at more than \$58,000 (£34,000) per year, and unemployment at 4.5 per cent, about half the national average. Alberta's population is about 2m, in a land mass some six times that of the UK.

Mr. Clark said that at least 12 foreign banks had established representative offices in the province in recent years. Among them were Bingley's Bank, National Westminster Bank, Banque Nationale de

Paris, the Swiss Bank Corporation, Schröders Bank and S. G. Warburg.

In addition, the Bank of Montreal, headquartered in Montreal, but whose financial base is in Toronto, had announced the establishment of Western headquarters in Calgary.

"It is more like these that give us the opinion that Alberta is fast evolving as the country's second most important banking centre, after Toronto and ahead of Montreal."

The council, in the meantime, was taking a close interest in the forthcoming debate on a revised Canadian Bank Act, which is expected to enable more foreign banks to operate as money-lending institutions in the Canadian market. The Act will be debated following the resumption of the Canadian Parliament in October.

Hotels for Angola
THREE contracts worth £210m (£95m) have been signed between Sisal, a private Brazilian building and consultancy company, and the Angolan National Directorate of Tourism and Hotels. Diana Smith writes from Brasilia.

Mr. Clarke's report on Alberta's

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The Polish Steamship Company has placed an order worth some \$80m for 12 8,300 dwt bulk carriers with Ebin Industria Naval and Estaleiro So, both Brazilian companies. The ships, due to be delivered in 1981, 1982 and 1983, will transport coal and other bulk cargo to and from Poland. All machinery and much of the ships' equipment will be manufactured in Poland. Other equipment will come from Salen and Wicander, the marine equipment subsidiary of Saleninvest.

Mr. Clarke's report on Alberta's

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Turkey may buy Swedish nuclear power plant

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE COLLAPSE of the \$6.9bn (£3.1bn) Kraftwerk Union deal with Iran for the construction of two nuclear power stations has shaken the confidence of other West German companies that have trading interests in Middle Eastern countries.

Several German concerns (the latest is Thyssen-Herstellal Technik which is helping to build a refinery in Isfahan) have been busily reviving their contacts with the new Government to try and salvage their long-term business relationship with Tehran.

The KU deal, formally broken off this month, had been denounced as over-priced, and "anti-social" by Iranian nuclear officials—and the same threat hangs over other German contracts.

The immediate concern, of course, is to recover outstanding payments from the Iranians. This is not, however, the main issue, as a large slice of German involvement in Iran has been guaranteed by Hermes, the Government-backed credit insurance company. Hermes is currently guaranteeing DM 8bn (£1.85bn) worth of German money in Iran, including payments to the value of DM 840m which fall due this year.

Political risks
The principal question is rather: How should West German companies now evaluate the political and economic risks of Middle Eastern business?

Should German companies build a political risk component into their initial bids for long-term turnkey projects—and thus possibly price themselves out of the highly competitive Middle East market? Or should they continue to lean on the political risk insurance offered by Hermes—but with the premiums biting into margins?

The most seriously affected German sector in Iran and Middle East trade is the construction industry. There are clear signs that contractors are re-thinking their approach to business in politically volatile areas and that they are coming up with various formulae.

Some construction companies for example are looking into the feasibility of using private insurers to cover large-scale projects in the Middle East. While only Hermes can offer political risk insurance, private insurers can offer a more flexible solution to some typical Middle Eastern turnkey problems. By insuring separate stages of a project with the cover ending when the stage is complete—premium payments can be kept within manageable limits.

The shift of focus to private insurers partly reflects frustration at the slowest at which long-mooted reforms are progressing through Hermes.

Hermes is examining the possibility of introducing a "protracted default" clause for short-term credits—at present, the company covers against default only in the case of insolvency. The company is also studying the idea of extending exchange rate cover to financing credits—until now Hermes has covered foreign exchange risks only for supplier credits.

But all the signs are that the German building boom will cool off next year—thus opening up the problem again of how to cope with the vulnerability of overseas projects. Interest rates have been rising and, as the oil crisis begins to percolate through the economy, the situation is beginning to look very similar to 1974, the worst year in the history of the building industry.

Bankruptcy

To companies like Phillip Holzmann, it makes sense to keep the ratio between domestic and overseas trade at a rough 50-50 balance, if only to avoid the distortions which led to the recent bankruptcy of the construction company, Beton und Monier Bau. The company overextended itself overseas

and experienced serious cash flow problems after stumbling against the bureaucracies of Third World countries.

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SHIPPING REPORT

Activity picks up in tanker market

BY LYNTON McLAIN

ACTIVITY IN the tanker trading market picked up towards the end of last week, with U.S. oil companies dominating trading, particularly in long-haul trading.

Rates for very large crude carriers trading out of the Gulf, however, almost collapsed at one point as too many vessels remained surplus to requirements.

A 270,000 deadweight ton vessel was chartered at World scale 42.5 for a voyage from the Gulf to the west. Attempts were made by other charterers to repeat the rate at the end of the week, but there was little optimism and every likelihood that rates would fall.

Smaller vessels, however, trading from the Middle East still gained satisfactory rates, with a 55,000 dwt vessel getting Worldwide 215 for discharge in the east.

Rates from the Mediterranean were almost stable last week and the Caribbean and U.S.

Atlantic coast trade was active. Timecharter rates were reported to have moved up in most markets. Brokers in London said that "very substantial figures" were paid for 30,000 dwt vessels.

Philips chartered a similar-size vessel for 12 months time-charter for delivery in September at \$13.5, a rate which would have seemed "outrageous" a few weeks ago, one London broker said.

There was also more active loading out of Britain, with more cargoes of North Sea oil bound for the U.S.

Tankers were used for carrying grain in July but to a lesser extent than in the previous month. John L. Jacobs and Co., charterers, said nine vessels, totalling 347,036 dwt were used for shipping grain.

This compared with 12 tankers totalling 408,370 dwt in June. Most shipments of grain were from the U.S. to Black Sea or Mediterranean ports.

World Economic Indicators

RETAIL PRICES

	July '79	June '79	May '79	July '78	% change over previous year	Index base year
W. Germany	152.8	151.6	150.8	145.9	+ 4.7	1970=100
Holland	124.9	124.9	124.9	119.9	+ 4.2	1975=100
UK	219.6	215.9	214.2	197.2	+ 11.4	1974=100
U.S.	216.4	214.1	211.5	195.3	+ 10.9	1967=100
France	219.2	217.4	215.1	198.9	+ 10.2	1970=100
	May '79	April '79	March '79	May '78		

% change

over

previous

year

Index

base year

1970=100

1975=100

1974=100

1967=100

1970=100

1976=100

1977=100

1978=100

1979=100

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No early cure for holiday air delays

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

AIR TRAFFIC DELAYS affecting thousands of European holidaymakers this month look like being a regular feature of summer travel for the next few years.

The resort areas of the Mediterranean basin simply cannot handle the air traffic load. Although the Association of British Travel Agents has been involved in talks aimed at easing the problem on both the UK and southern Europe, the basic cause of the difficulties is a lack of sophisticated equipment on the sunbathing air routes.

"It is one big bottleneck," says Mr. Roger Davies, managing director of Thomson Holidays. "Anyone who can travel mid-week ought to do so."

Northern airports have air traffic control equipment geared to year-round business traffic and have elaborate facilities capable of handling thousands of flights a day. In July and August a high proportion of these flights are destined for holiday areas—areas which in the winter have only a few flights a day and can only handle three or four an hour at peak times.

In most cases it is just a question of money—whether to instal millions of pounds worth of radar and other facilities for ten week-ends a year.

The problem is rapidly worsening. The moment any country in Europe has a dispute which causes delays at its own airports. The past two or three years have seen several of these.

Delays of two or three hours are frequent at peak week-ends.

Some industry sources suggest that it will be at least five years before the southern air routes technically catch up with the demand.

The delays hit industrial workers, often tied into Saturday to Saturday breaks, hardest. As the blue-collar workers of Scandinavia, Germany, Holland and the UK pour into Palma each week-end, delays build up.

More than 1,000 holiday passengers were stranded at Hurst Airport, Christchurch, Dorset, yesterday because flights to Jersey were delayed by dense fog in the Channel Islands.

All Air India flights out of Heathrow have been indefinitely cancelled. Trouble has arisen over terms of a pay offer made to clerical staff, members of the TGWU, who have been "working to rule." Over 40 staff have been given notice. Air India flights are being re-routed to other European airports.

Good prospects for machine tool industry

BY JAMES McDONALD

IT IS possible to manufacture machine tools successfully in the UK, says a report by the Engineering Employers' Federation.

The report is based on research—carried out with the aid of the Institute of Manpower Studies—among a sample of 21 federated companies in the machine tool sector.

The study was prompted by a conviction that low productivity was one of the major problems facing British industry. It was designed to enable the federation to help and encourage members to improve their performance, and to assist the federation in representing the industry's social and economic problems to the Government.

A wide spread of efficiency was found among the companies taking part in the survey, with four showing "outstanding performances." The report says that between 1973 and 1977, the average return on capital of the four best companies was 22.4 per cent, compared with 11.6 per cent for the other participants.

Profit made up 33 per cent of their value added, compared with 15 per cent and on average every employee in the best companies produced £2,710 value added per annum (in 1970 prices), over 30 per cent more than the average of other companies.

An analysis of the operating

UK to exhibit in Peking

CHINA has agreed to an all-British medical exhibition being held in Peking from March 12-22, 1980.

It will be organised by the British Overseas Trade Board in conjunction with the British Health Care Export Council and the Sino-British Trade Council.

As well as the exhibition, there will be a technical seminar with papers presented by British specialists.

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Schedules subject to change without notice.

MENACE, MYTH OR MAGIC FORMULA?

see page 7

NEWS ANALYSIS—ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

Report backs nuclear growth

BY JOHN LLOYD

OVER THE past year, the electricity industry has dealt with two increasingly contentious issues.

They are the industry's use of nuclear power—now the sharpest arrow in the environmentalists' quiver—and the use of coal, whether domestic or foreign. This argument, while technically much simpler, is largely confined to bureaucratic jousting between great state corporations, for which the audience is more select.

The publication last week on the Electricity Council's medium-term development plan, covering the years from 1979-86, casts some illumination on these fractious topics.

Nuclear opponents will find nothing in the report to allay their fears. The council believes that the growth of nuclear power is wholly essential, for these reasons:

• It is cheaper: "On the best estimate of plant capital cost and future fuel prices that can currently be made, nuclear generation is the most economic plant for development."

• Natural oil and gas, while

plentiful in the UK now, are finite resources: oil, of much more importance to the industry than gas as a fuel, will at least double its real price by the end of the century. "A central task under the Government's energy policy... is that of developing nuclear power against the time when gas and oil supplies will be declining."

• Coal prices will rise roughly in line with oil prices, coal will become increasingly scarce as alternative uses (oil liquefaction, gasification) become commercially viable, while alternative energy sources are thought to have little to offer in this century.

Thus—"subject to environmental constraints"—the council appears to be planning on a future in which new nuclear stations will not merely cater for electricity growth (forecast to be about 2 per cent a year in the plan period) but will increase their proportion of the total fuel mix at the expense of oil and, more controversially, coal.

This is not said in so many words, but is clear by omission.

The report talks about new plant in the context of nuclear power. The following paragraph is a clear statement of preference.

"Plant ordering in the period 1982 and 1985 will be influenced by the costs, once they become known, of the (nuclear) stations mentioned above, the CEBG success in obtaining site consents and the development of the UK nuclear manufacturing industry. On current forecasts, which are very tentative, ordering during this period could amount to about 2 GW per annum."

"Orders are being kept open on plant types and fuel choice for orders from 1982 onwards and should nuclear programmes have been delayed, contingency plans have been made to build alternative plant or to retain existing coal-fired plant in service."

By contrast, the following section talks cautiously of plans for "refurbishing" existing coal-fired plant.

While delicately informing the coal industry that its sales of coal to power stations are likely to decline in future

Boots launches credit card and personal loan facilities

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE BOOTS chemists group has set up a working party to study post-graduate training.

The working party will be chaired by Professor Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, Master of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.

It will consider how a shortage of students would affect manpower policies; whether present arrangements give students appropriate training and whether students are of the right quality and background; whether there are too many post-graduates in certain fields; and how research councils can ensure that there will be enough students to make a valid contribution to research.

Last year the Agricultural, Medical, Natural Environment, Science and Social Science councils made 6,810 studentship and bursary awards.

3. the cards will be available in all 1,130 branches and 143 Timothy Whites stores.

The in-store card will operate along the usual lines. Customers will pay a fixed monthly sum between £5 and £20, and their credit limit will be 24 times that amount. The interest rate charged on outstanding balances will be 1.85 per cent a month.

Interest on the Boots personal loan scheme will be 12.1 per cent a year. It will apply only to purchases of over £65 from large stores.

Boots, like most other High Street retailers, has decided that providing credit facilities is a useful means of ensuring customer loyalty and compensating for any short-term fall in consumer spending.

Most large supermarkets, except J. Sainsbury, now offer their own credit cards. Tesco, which launched its card last month, reports that initial customer acceptance has been much higher than forecast.

Other store groups, such as F. W. Woolworth, the Co-operative stores, and Marks and Spencer have already launched schemes or are in the process of doing so.

Marks and Spencer says that its credit card scheme will be available through all its 252 UK stores by the end of the year. Its credit facilities are operated by Citibank Trust and the Bank of Scotland.

Borg-Warner develops drive for small cars

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

BORG-WARNER'S UK subsidiary claims it has had "spectacular test results" with a continuously variable transmission (CVT) it has been developing with Van Doorn of Holland and Fiat of Italy.

Many people in the motor industry believe that CVT systems will be used in a majority of the small, front-wheel-drive cars in Europe and the U.S. by the end of the 1980s.

Borg-Warner and Fiat bought a stake in Van Doorn last December. The project also has Dutch Government backing.

Mr. Derek Gardner, Borg-Warner's director of engineering and research, said cars fitted with the CVTs were comparable in fuel economy with manual gearbox versions. Under certain conditions, they were proving to be even more economical.

"We at Borg-Warner are

well aware of the reputation of automatic transmissions from the economy point of view and, while this is often exaggerated, we are nevertheless determined to eliminate this disadvantage once and for all," he said.

The company is also developing a four-speed automatic transmission for engines of two litres or more at its Letchworth, Herts, headquarters. This will suit light commercial vehicles as well as cars.

Borg-Warner maintains that this transmission, called Model 85, is showing a reduction of up to 25 per cent in fuel consumption compared with existing automatic transmissions.

"With Model 85 we are looking for all the benefits of an automatic transmission without any performance or fuel penalty," Mr. Gardner said.

Energy Department seeks oil production experts

THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT is seeking to lure oil production experts away from the North Sea companies to take over the advisory role removed from the British National Oil Corporation by the Government.

The department's petroleum engineering section is to launch a recruiting drive for 35 experts in all areas of oil development, who will be paid "comparable rates" with outside industry.

Mr. David Howell, Energy Secretary, has won Cabinet approval for the new posts, for which will be between £19,200 and £13,600.

The department won good contacts and co-operation with the oil industry while BNOC fulfilled its "statutory advisory role" on North Sea development.

Now that role has been removed, the petroleum engineering section is to expand contacts with the industry in a bid to iron out problems in the development of the UK's Continental Shelf resources.

Approval for the new posts, for which will be between £19,200 and £13,600.

The department won good contacts and co-operation with the oil industry while BNOC fulfilled its "statutory advisory role" on North Sea development.

By buying smaller vehicles for both self-drive cars and the chauffeur-driven Government Car Service—used by Ministers—and by limiting the number of vehicles, the Civil Service saved £408,000 in the year ending March 31.

Mr. Williams suggests trans-

port needs may be reduced in the longer term because of the increasing application of new technology.

Financial Times Monday August 13, 1979

LABOUR

ITV blackout will last three days at least

BY GARETH GRIFFITHS, LABOUR STAFF

THE BLACKOUT at Independent Television is likely to last at least until Wednesday, company executives and yesterday.

The blackout, which has lasted since Friday is due to a national strike by members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians. The only television company to maintain a service has been Channel Television.

Both sides in the dispute will meet on Tuesday with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Mr. Andy Kerr, chief conciliation officer,

Channel TV plan to broadcast every evening from 6 pm. Mr. Brian Turner, Channel TV operations manager, said the company had a separate agreement with the ACTT. It would use films to fill in and would produce a local news programme.

Employers stay firm on engineers' pay

BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAY last Monday is also expected.

EL's pressed steel body plant at Cowley will also be affected. Workers who last week refused to go on strike now plan to part in the stoppage.

The unions expect up to 2m workers to take part in the stoppage. Mr. Alex Ferry, general secretary of the confederation, said yesterday that the unions would step up the dispute if progress was not made after the strike. Mr. Terry Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering workers, said a long all-out strike of selected local stoppages could not be ruled out.

The unions are demanding a £20 minimum weekly craft rate. They have been offered £10 a week. The confederation has imposed a national overtime ban since the beginning of August.

Union funds law brings accounting problems

Financial Times Reporter

THE CIVIL SERVICE

branches to report independently on their financial accounts to the Certification Officer in the auditing of union accounts, the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies said today.

Details of measures aimed at

cutting the cost of the Government's 23,000 car, lorry and van fleet, are contained in an article by Mr. Ron Williams of the Civil Service Department's Management Services Division, in the latest issue of the department's journal, Management Services in Government. A transport economy unit was set up in the Treasury in 1978 and later transferred to the Civil Service Department.

The committee has drawn up a guide outlining the accounting and auditing requirements of the 1974 Trade Union and Labour Relations Act. Representatives of the TUC and the Certification Officer helped in its preparation. Further guidelines on auditing trade unions are being prepared by the Auditing Practices Committee.

Today's statement by the consultative committee says the

and a current overtime ban, were misleading the public.

Both unions have imposed an overtime ban since June at the child benefit computer centre at Washington in Tyne and Wear in protest against staff cuts. The centre is due to lose another 50 posts as part of the 3 per cent Civil Service staff cuts.

The delay in issuing child benefit books from Washington has been criticised by the Child Poverty Action Group and Family Service Units, who want the Department to look into the way the scheme is being run.

Civil servants attack Ministry 'complacency'

THE TWO main Civil Service unions representing staff in the Department of Health and Social Security have accused the Government of complacency over delays in child benefit payments.

In a joint statement today, the Society of Civil and Public Servants and the Civil and Public Services Association say the work involved in the changes in the child benefit payments system. The unions say Government statements, blaming delays on previous industrial action

and a current overtime ban,

were misleading the public.

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Reorganised

THE much larger Provisional IRA has also reorganised itself, consisting now mainly of four man active service units and a streamlined command structure. This has meant a considerable improvement of Provisional security.

The main thrust of the activities now is to try to kill security forces men and to bomb economic targets. This year, 31 members of the RUC, the UDR and the British Army have been killed.

The troubled celebrations in Northern Ireland

BY STEWART DALBY IN BELFAST

CATHOLIC forces. Tomorrow is the 10th anniversary of the introduction of troops into the province.

Sporadic outbreaks of destruction occurred in Belfast. Cars were stolen, occasionally hijacked and set on fire. Army patrols were fired upon by snipers in the mainly Roman Catholic areas of West Belfast. Part of the M1 from Belfast to Dublin was closed intermittently because cars were being stoned.

Battalions of soldiers were in attendance, though out of sight, as the marchers chanted "Brits Out" and "Up the IRA." Some youths threw rocks at the Andersons Town police station.

The week has seen the eighth anniversary of internment without trial and the 29th birthday of the siege of Londonderry when Protestant apprentices held the town against Roman

minute bombings and shootings on both sides.

Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

DATA PROCESSING

Librarians' aid

DERBYSHIRE County Council's computerised library control system, the most comprehensive of its kind in Europe and possibly in the world, has got to a trouble-free start after two years' preparation. Chester, Old Senior and Junior, and Tuxton libraries are the first three of eight in the county to be brought into the scheme's first phase; the second phase will bring the total to over 60.

Catering for all aspects of library management outside full cataloguing, the equipment accepts reservations, schedules and executes them, firstly from local and only if necessary from regional or county-wide stocks, book transport between branches thus being minimised.

Fines are computed and facilities exist for them to be handled on a credit basis. Records are currently main-

tained for 500,000 volumes and 200,000 book borrowers, figures which will rise steeply as the scheme is expanded.

Central processor is an interactive Prime 300 system with 160 Megabytes of disc store. Software was designed, specified and implemented entirely in Forth by Doric Computer Systems of Watford. Overall contractor for the scheme was Automated Library Systems of Welwyn.

When the later stages of the system are brought in, they will continue to operate using virtually the same software, despite the large increase in data involved.

Dorie Computer Systems, 25, Woodford Road, Watford, Herts, WD1 1PP. Tel: (092) 45788. Automated Library Systems, Vector House, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL7 7AN. 07073 29344.

Fast pile calculations

INTENDED to cut the time and costs involved in the analysis of foundation walls, piles and pile groups, subject to lateral loads, a program has been added to our services for civil engineers provided by London United Computing Systems.

LAWPILE—Lateral Analysis of Walls and Piles—has been developed by Dr. L. A. Wood of Queen Mary College, London, at the specific request of users of his RAFTS soil structure interaction program, introduced by United Computing 18 months ago.

The need expressed by engineers, which led to the development of LAWPILE, was for a program which would allow advanced analyses to be carried out on a variety of foundation systems, simply and cheaply. By

extending the methods used in RAFTS, Dr. Wood has devised a system which models structures by linear finite elements—the soil by boundary elements—and gives the accuracy of large finite element models for a fraction of the cost.

Facilities available will analyse single piles and pile groups as well as diaphragm walls, sheet pile walls and propped cantilevers. Factors such as the elastoplastic nature of soils, non-linear structural effects and the position of the water table are all taken into account automatically, while features like the ability to vary soil properties in plan and with depth, and the availability of the Winkler spring model are also incorporated.

U.C.S., 56 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4AN.

Reads data rapidly

AN ADVANCED hand unit for handheld automatic reading of data most commonly found in general data installations has been introduced by Plessey Communications and Data Systems.

Designated OCR Series 2800, the new unit is an important addition to the company's range of equipment specially developed for the data-capture market. The Plessey range is now able to offer users the choice of bar code or optical character recognition, depending on requirements. Series 2800 is compatible with the full Plessey range of data capture equipment.

The most advanced equipment in the range, Model 2880, is user-programmable to facilitate complex data output by within the terminal unit also embodies self-diagnostic capability.

All OCR Series 2800 equipment incorporate microprocessor-controlled automatic line-tracking, which disregards extraneous data, thus providing long-line reading on first-pass scan. Compact, rugged and lightweight construction provides modular hardware and software capabilities sought by OEM customers to meet end-user needs. It embodies no moving parts and is silent in operation.

ELECTRONICS

National showroom

WHAT MIGHT be described as the permanent electronics showroom—for the industry is to be opened at the World Trade Centre in London on September 25.

Originally mooted in the Spring of this year, the idea of a fixed instrument display centre has now been expanded to include most forms of electronic equipment, has been backed with money from Finance for Industry and is receiving the active support of the Department of Industry.

Visitors to the centre will be able to see a wide range of equipment with the emphasis on microprocessor-based instruments and control.

Apart from the permanent display, which will be manned by technically-informed permanent staff, the Centre will also stage a mini-exhibition

covering specific subjects, the first of which is to be oscilloscopes. These three-day events will be held every other week and others scheduled include multimeters, power supplies and temperature measurement.

Attached to the main display areas will be a library of manufacturer's literature from which visitors will be able to permanently remove whatever they need.

In addition, the Centre will be publishing its own journal called Product Review every two months.

Cost to companies placing their products at the ME Centre will be £1,750 a year for a full display module offering 20 linear feet of shelf space down to a foot of wall space for £175.

More from the organisation at the World Trade Centre, London E1 9AA. (01) 488 2400.

Heat data package

A SMALL packaged circuit from Burr-Brown International, measuring 4.8 by 3.0 by 0.375 inches, contains all the circuits needed to digitise the outputs of up to 16 thermocouples so that the information may be processed by a computer.

Known as the SDM 858, the package has an integral instrumentation amplifier with a gain that can be set between 100 and 2,000, allowing it to be connected to couples with operating ranges extending from minus hundreds to plus thousands of degree C and temperature co-

efficients between 10 and 70 microvolts per degree C.

This amplifier also has high common mode rejection so that noise signals picked up by long thermocouple wire runs can be rejected. Alternatively, simple low pass filtering can be applied.

To carry out cold junction compensation an integral barrier strip can be monitored to allow ambient temperature data to be supplied to the computer.

The SDM 858 can provide eight differential or 16 single-ended inputs. More from 11 Station Road, Watford, Herts (0923 33837).

HORTICULTURE

Greenhouse watered

A MEANS of ensuring that only the required amount of water or water/autumn solution is fed to plants in greenhouses and nurseries is offered by Fenlow Electronics, Church Street, Marcham, Oxfordshire, OX12 6NP. (0885 331783).

The equipment consists of a microcomputer, gold plated moisture measuring probes and a solenoid valve connected to the irrigation supply.

During a two-hour cycle the processor measures and averages the readings from the separate probes and stores the values. During the irrigation cycle water is allowed to flow out the plants.

MAINTENANCE

No need to go down the drain

KEEPING THE UK's sewerage systems in good running order is becoming increasingly difficult. Because so many sewers are very old (some have been in use for over 100 years) they are dangerous and extremely unpleasant to work in. Substances which were never envisaged when the sewers were first laid now pass into them, adding greatly to the task of maintenance.

Machines for carrying out much of the difficult maintenance from the surface have been developed in parallel with the growth of the problem and one of the leading suppliers of this equipment, which is usually mounted on a road vehicle, is planning a major expansion of its activities in the UK.

A machine now to be offered more widely, the Vactor 810 Jet Rodder, employs a vacuum

system capable of lifting liquids and solids from depths of 50 ft or more. It also uses a powerful water jet operating at 2,000 lbs per sq in pressure.

Machines of this type have hitherto been made available for hire by Industrial and Municipal Pollution (IMP) of 14, South Street, Torrington, Devon EX38 8AF (08052 2539), but they are now to be sold as well. The first sale has just been made to the North West Water Authority.

The equipment's usage need not be confined to sewers. It can be used to clear pipe systems on industrial estates, for instance, while one of its more recent applications was in the clearing of the Swanne, Dorset, storm water outfall for Purbeck District Council.

This outfall (34 inches deep, 28 inches wide and 41 metres long) was filled solid with shore

sand and gravel. It took a Jet Rodder with two operators four days to clear at a cost of about £1,200 compared with a gang of men working for six weeks.

IMP is now considering wider applications for its machines and it has already devised a method for the cleaning, drying and coating of the interiors of drains and sewers with an epoxy resin in one operation carried out from the surface.

Other uses foreseen are the cleaning of fresh water mains and the clearance by chemical means of roots which penetrate into pipelines and sewers.

By the end of this year, about 20 Vactor Jet Rodders will be out and about on hire contracts in various parts of the country. They cost about £26 an hour to hire and can now be purchased at a cost of £42,000 to £44,000 each.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Sounds to tag the diver

ACOUSTIC "pinger" markers can be supplied for European offshore underwater use by Steveley Electroacoustic Services, 68 Grosvenor Street, Manchester M1 7EW (061 273 6321). These tiny devices, which range in size from 1.3 inches long by 0.6 inches diameter to six inches by one inch have an effective range from 150 yards up to nearly a mile. They are designed specifically for "tagging" divers, underwater objects, work locations and submersibles.

Customers can specify the acoustic frequency in the range nine to 200 kHz and the operational life, which can be up to 100 days, may be extended by adding further miniature batteries, adding no more than 1.2 inches to the length. Since the pingers are encapsulated in epoxy resin they can operate in deep water without problems.

For complete systems, the company can also supply small highly portable receivers and a directional hydrophone for tracking purposes.

DESIGNED TO be installed in either ranch or palisade form, it is a system of rigid PVC fencing to be marketed under the name Telspan by Telcon Plastics, Farnborough Works, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent.

The fencing should prove equally advantageous to commercial or industrial users. Special feature of the system because it is quickly and simply installed, immune to rusting and tamper-proof fixing bolts.

rotting, does not need painting, and requires a minimum of maintenance.

Suggested applications are for factory sites, air terminals, racecourses, parking lots and filling stations. It may also be suitable, says the maker, for high quality

equivalent tape speeds.

More from the company at 12 Elmwood Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7QN (0252 517665).

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

AKPE

ALLGEMEINES KRANKENHAUS WIEN
PLANUNGS- UND ERICHTUNGS-AG
1090 WIEN, LAZARETTGASSE 20
TELEFON 0222/43 89 51 DW

Call for tenders

for computer software products for the New Vienna General Hospital (University Clinics).

Ausschreibende Stelle:

Allgemeines Krankenhaus Wien,
Planungs- und Errichtungs-
und Kriegsgegenstand (AKPE)
Lazarettgasse 20, 1090 Wien; Tel: 43 89 51, Telex: 136153
für die
Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Republik Österreich
und der Stadt Wien für den Neubau des
Wiener Allgemeinen Krankenhauses (Universitätskliniken)

Scope of tender:

The tender has to include an already existing software product for the fields of patients, operation, pharmacy and goods administration, which is to be used on the one hand with the existing computer IBM/370-158 as the central processing unit and which is adaptable to the special requirements to the New Vienna General Hospital (AKH) on the other hand. Any necessary special peripheral hardware (e.g. TV-screens, printers) as well as processing software should be included in the offer.

Die Angebote sind in deutscher Sprache abzugeben.

Angebotsabgabe:

Die Angebote sind bis Dienstag, 25. September 1979, 8.45 Uhr, in verschlossenen Umschlägen mit der Aufschrift „Angebot über Softwareprodukte Informationssystem AKH, der Firma...“ abzugeben.

Öffentliche Angebotsöffnung:

Dienstag, 25. September 1979, 9.00 Uhr, Sitzungszimmer, AKPE, Wien.

Zuschlagsfrist:

12 Wochen.
Die Ausschreibungsunterlagen sind ab Montag, 13. August 1979 gegen Einzahlung von 65.000,- bei der AKPE, 1090 Wien, Lazarettgasse 20, Erdgeschoss, Zimmer E 05, werktag (außer Samstag) von 9.00 bis 12.00 Uhr erhältlich. In dieser Zeit kann bei der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Betriebsorganisation, 1160 Wien, Neulengfelder Straße 12, Dr. Böhni, Telefon: 43 59 94 nach telefonische Anmeldung in Unterlagen und Pläne Einsicht genommen werden.*

Angebote von Firmen können nur dann berücksichtigt werden, wenn die Bieter alle in Österreich notwendigen Berechtigungen und nachweisbar den nötigen Betriebsumfang und die entsprechende Erfahrung besitzen.

* Die Ausschreibungsunterlagen werden jedoch Interessenten aus dem Ausland auch gegen vorherige Einzahlung von 65.000,— auf das Konto bei der Zentralsparkasse der Gemeinde Wien 696-025-03 unverzüglich nach Einlangen des vorwähnten Betrages zugestellt.

COMMUNICATIONS

Low cost radio training

BEFORE THEY take to the air it is essential for the growing number of private flyers to be able to use airborne radio telephone equipment without confusion, particularly if an emergency should arise.

Complicated simulators can be costly, while simple intercom units modified to give the effect of air-ground communication are frequently inadequate.

Kearns Barker Associates of Rutherford Road, Basingstoke, Hants (0256 52911) offers a solution to the problem with its RT Simulator, a student unit and a cable-connected instructor's set that are placed in

separate rooms.

Both units contain four-digit frequency selector switches selectable from 100.0 to 199.9 MHz and although no radio frequencies are generated, student and instructor cannot communicate unless both have selected the same channel or the instructor has pressed his over-ride switch.

The instructor's unit has, in addition, a digital display which shows what has been selected by the student.

Apart from private flying tuition, the system is expected to be useful in the emergency services and perhaps the armed services.

DIRECT GAS-FIRED SPACE HEATING AND PROCESS HEATING

Shipton Road, Harrogate, N. Yorks HG1 5LJ. Tel: 757839.

HAND TOOLS

Saws small trees

IDEAL for felling small trees, lopping branches and cutting firewood—also for coarse wood-working jobs, such as fencing and roofing—is a lightweight saw from Sweden, introduced to the UK market by C. D. Monninger, Overbury Road, London, N15 (01-800 5335).

Major feature of this DIY tool is operator safety—incorporated is a very advanced, inertia-type, automatic chain braking system which stops the saw in less than one-nineteenth of a second should the chain bind and kick back.

Fibre joined by fusing

EQUIPMENT developed at the Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven and reported in the latest edition of the company's Technical Review fuses the ends of optical fibres and works in a way described as "rather like soldering wires together."

Basic components of the system are a V-groove and fibre bonding system (three axis motion), electric arc discharge arrangements to provide the heat, and a halogen lamp optical projection system that throws a 60 times magnification

from the minimum up to A2, with a capacity of 500 sheets of the largest size.

The appropriate cassette is selected on a visual display at the rear of the copying platen and where an original single sheet of paper is being copied it can be fed directly into the automatic feeder without the need to raise the platen cover.

After the desired number of copies is completed the original is ejected into the receiving tray—and no more originals can be left in the copier for retrieval by the next user.

Another plain copier with micro processor controls and strip optics is available from A.

Dick Company of Great Britain, 88 High Street, Brentford, Middx. (01-568 8889). Strip optics of the 980 is said to be designed to give the finest quality copies, and a self contained microcomputer brain runs the copier with only a fraction of the moving parts other copiers need, claims the company.

With 15,000 transistors built into a tiny chip, the electronics process the paper through the copier and provide information to the user through the LED display. One setting on the digital keyboard will register one to 99 copies on the LED display which counts down.

IN THE OFFICE

Gives copy a good image

HIGH QUALITY images result from a plain paper copier because of an indirect electrostatic reproduction method with a magnetic brush process in the final stages, announces Agfa-Gevaert, Brent

BUSINESSMAN'S DIARY

UK TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Title	Venue
Aug. 17-19 Custom Car Show (08833 4371)	Bristol Exbn. Centre
Aug. 19-23 International Craft and Hobby Fair (04252 72711)	Wembley Conference Centre
Aug. 21-23 Education and Communication Technology Exhibition (01-722 4139)	Holland Park School
Aug. 25-Sept. 1 International Motor Cycle Show (01-741 2156)	Earls Court
Sept. 2-6 Giftware and Fashion Accessories Trade Fair (Tunbridge Wells 36685)	Bristol Exbn. Centre
Sept. 3-7 International Music Publishing and Recording Industry Show—INTERPOP (01-498 0059)	Connaught Rooms, London
Sept. 3-7 Offshore Europe Exhibition and Conference (01-549 5531)	Aberdeen
Sept. 4-6 Point-of-Sale Exhibition (01-340 3281)	West Centre Hotel, London
Sept. 4-7 International Carpet Fair (021-705 6707)	Harrowgate
Sept. 4-7 WORKSHOP (01-647 1001)	Wembley Conference Centre
Sept. 11-13 Electronics Show (08833 4371)	Bristol Exhibition Centre
Sept. 18-19 MAF '79—international Menswear Fair (01-339 5041)	Earls Court
Sept. 17-20 Filterex/Dustex '79—2nd World Filtration Exhibition (01-336 0811)	Olympia
Sept. 18-21 Firetech '79 International Fire Protection and Control Exhibition (01-337 2400)	Brighton Exbn. Centre
Sept. 24-28 Weightex '79 (01-458 5741)	Metropole Ex. Centre Brighton
Sept. 24-28 International Welding and Metal Fabrication Exhb. (021-705 6707)	National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

OVERSEAS TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Current Austrian Timber Fair (01-584 6938) (until Aug. 19)	Klagenfurt
Aug. 13-16 National Hardware Show	Chicago
Aug. 17-26 International Trade Fair (01-188 1951)	Malmö
Aug. 20-Sept. 20 International Fair	Ljubljana
Aug. 20-24 International Packaging and Food Processing Exhibition—PAKPROCESS (01-458 1951)	Johannesburg
Aug. 24-Sept. 2 International Radio and TV Exhb. (01-540 1101)	Berlin
Aug. 25-27 Zuspa: International Shoe Samples Fair	Frankfurt
Aug. 25-29 International Fair (01-734 0543)	Johannesburg
Aug. 25-29 International Fair (01-734 0543)	Frankfurt
Aug. 27-30 Pharmaceutical and Chemist Supplies Exhibition (01-458 1951)	Utrecht
Aug. 28-31 Electrical and Electronics Components Exhibition	Gothenburg
Aug. 29-Sept. 12 Timber and Woodworking Industry Exhibition	Moscow
Aug. 31-Sept. 9 International Fair of Consumer Goods (01-574 6034)	Stockholm
Sept. 2-10 International Trade Fair	Leipzig
Sept. 3-10 International Trade Fair of Algiers	Algiers
Sept. 6-21 International Trade Expo (01-342 4784)	Algiers
Sept. 8-11 International Leather Week (01-439 3964)	Paris
Sept. 8-16 International Autumn Fair (01-554 6938)	Vienna
Sept. 8-23 International Fair	Ghent
Sept. 12-20 International Engineering Fair (01-278 0281)	Bruno
Sept. 13-16 International DIY Trade Fair (01-236 0911)	Essen
Sept. 13-16 International Autumn Fair (01-336 1851)	Zagreb
Sept. 16-19 LIGAM—Furniture Trade Fair	Berne
Sept. 16-19 Clothing Fair	Brussels

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

Current Computer: Basic Trainee Programming Course (Cannock 2311) (until Aug. 17)	Cannock Staffs.
Aug. 16-17 Brunel Management Programme: Personal Effectiveness Development Workshop (0895 56461)	Brunel University
Aug. 27-Sept. 2 Orb Foundation: Trade and Technology in Orbit (01-336 4888)	Wembley Conference Centre
Sept. 3-7 Brunel Management Prog.: Production-Management and Human Behaviour (Uxbridge 55451)	Brunel University
Sept. 6-7 MSS: Management Skills for Women (Lincoln 33529)	Lincoln
Sept. 10-12 EMS: The Japanese Approach to Product Quality Management (High Wycombe 33171)	Institute of Directors, Pall Mall
Sept. 11-12 Freight Information Services: Practical Marketing for Road Handlers (Southport 33515)	Southport
Sept. 11-12 ASUAG: International Chronometry Congress (01-337 0116)	Genoa
Sept. 12-13 Financial Times: Korea in the 1980s (01-236 4382)	Seoul
Sept. 12-15 International Newspaper Promotion Association: 9th European Conference	Munich
Sept. 13-14 Society of Chemical Industry: Marine Corrosion on Offshore Structures	University of Aberdeen
Sept. 14 CILA: Educational Conference (01-240 1486)	Frankfurt
Sept. 14 MSS Computer and Business Consultancy: Effective Budgeting and Financial Planning (Worthing 34755)	Royal Lancaster Hotel, W2
Sept. 16-21 Brunel Management: Experimental Methods in Management Training (Uxbridge 56461)	London
Sept. 17-21 Lamsac: Job Evaluation (01-236 2333)	Brunel University
Sept. 18 The City of Westminster Chamber of Commerce: Security and Survival in an Age of Violence (01-734 2851)	Buckingham Gate, SW1
Sept. 18-21 University of Bradford Management Centre: Financial Control of R and D (Bradford 42299)	H.M.S. Belfast
	Heaton Mount, Bradford

Yugoslavia's hard line on technology transfer

BY A. H. HERMANN, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE PATENT system is already sick and ailing. It is cumbersome and many believe mainly of benefit to large companies which can sustain the enormous costs of patent litigation and have the resources to enable them to develop products faster than their smaller competitors. It is under attack from the anti-trust agencies in the U.S. and EEC. Proposals that it should be loosened, and possibly replaced by some sort of copy-right system—everyone publishing inventions as quickly as possible and being entitled to claim royalties whenever plagiarism can be proved—have been in the air for some years now. The developing countries could well deal it the final blow.

Yugoslavia has been developing its industry rapidly. I had plenty of evidence of this during my recent visit to Belgrade, which in the course of the past 50 years has developed from a large Balkan village to a modern and attractive town.

Though much more advanced than other countries of the Third World, to the leadership of which it aspires, Yugoslavia is not spared the typical difficulty of keeping the advance in step and of concentrating on the essentials. In some rural districts and islands the short triangular hoe is still the main instrument of labour to use the Marxist term, and hard currencies are scarce. But until recently Yugoslav enterprises were given a fairly free hand to buy foreign licences as they pleased, including some which do not seem quite essential—for example one for the making of Jaffa cakes, which seems to be the current craze in Belgrade. Such free spending of hard currency seems to have jolted the authorities into taking a more cautious attitude.

Yugoslavia is also ahead of Comecon in having concluded about 170 joint ventures with Western companies. Its second joint venture with Dunlop, for the production of dumper tyres, was signed in June. Yugoslav officials miss no opportunity of emphasising that they wish to conclude many more such agreements with Western companies in the future.

At the same time, this "fraternising" with the capitalists is provoking resistance from the hard-line faction of the Yugoslav establishment. Through the latest revision of the Yugoslav Law on the Investment of Foreign Persons' Funds in Domestic Organisations, came in

into force only on April 15, 1978, its spirit seems to be contradicted in some respects by the way it has been applied.

The law guarantees the foreign investor equality of treatment, gives him the possibility of up to a 49 per cent share in a joint venture and provides for joint management by a board made up of Yugoslav and foreign members according to the proportion of funds invested by the two sides.

However, Yugoslav authorities have been insisting recently that the joint venture organisations must not take any bank credit and that any additional funds required must be obtained in the form of equity capital from the Yugoslav partner. This may cause great financial embarrassment to some of the Yugoslav enterprises involved in such partnerships, and is bound to restrict substantially the share of the foreign partner in the returns of the joint venture and in its management.

Even now the joint boards have very limited scope, often meeting only two or three times in a year while there are hardly any foreign personnel in management. Nor is it possible to take to supply materials, spare parts and equipment at competitive prices and to indemnify the Yugoslav party for any product liability claims or for any liability arising from environmental or health damage attributed to the production process. To make these provisions stick, the law excludes the possibility of bringing any disputes before foreign courts.

The Yugoslav officials have shown great patience, and spared no time, in explaining the provisions of their laws. But when it came to the practical application of these laws, the furthest a high official would go was an admission that mistakes in the interpretation of these laws were made, both by foreign parties and by the Yugoslav. It was not difficult to guess that this view was not shared by all the Yugoslav enterprises present at the meeting. There seems to be a certain disagreement on the best tactics: between those who realise that a harsh treatment of the suppliers is not likely to secure their full co-operation, and those who would inflict them according to a hard-line ideology.

The clearest evidence of the extremely hard line taken by Yugoslavia on the transfer of technology is the Bill for the Revision of the Yugoslav Patent, Trademark, Model and Design Law. If adopted, the law would practically terminate conventional patent protection in Yugoslavia. The project is not new and had several set-backs in the past, but the new Director of the Yugoslav Patent Office, Professor Dragutin Boskovic, told me that he expects it to be on the statute book before the year is out. The Bill has been vigorously opposed by the Yugoslav courts which it resulted in "unfair competition." But one can assume that competition would not be found "unfair" if it led to a replacement of imports by domestic production or to penetration of foreign market.

A system of general open licences of the Yugoslav type, if adopted by the more advanced developing countries, could also lead to serious repercussions in the industrialised countries. Medium-size and small Western companies would find it even more difficult to compete with the industry of these cheap-labour countries if they had access to patents which the Western companies were not allowed to infringe.

former director of the Patent Office, Professor Stojan Predar and his removal may well be a sign that the opponents of the Bill are fighting a losing battle.

If enacted, it would give Yugoslav authorities the power to erect patent protection. The Patent Office would not be empowered to grant a "licence of right," concerning one single patent and benefiting one single Yugoslav enterprise. The grant would be made on the grounds of public interest.

Even more radical is the proposal that the revised patent law should give the federal government, or one of its agencies, the power to grant open licences. These would be called "official licences" and would cover a group of patents concerning a certain product or possibly an entire branch of industry. Such a group licence would open to any Yugoslav enterprise the possibility of exploiting all relevant patents. As such an official licence could be granted whenever "the general interest of the economy" required, there would be practically no limit to the powers of the authorities to suspend patent protection in widely defined branches of industry.

In every case the Yugoslav enterprise authorised to exploit a patent under a "licence of right" or several patents under an "official licence" would be supposed to pay the owner of the patent an agreed share in the profits made by the exploitation of the patent. If no agreement could be reached, Yugoslav courts would determine the share of profit which the patent owner ought to get. Yugoslav courts could also stop the exploitation of the licence on the grounds that it resulted in "unfair competition." But one can assume that competition would not be found "unfair" if it led to a replacement of imports by domestic production or to penetration of foreign market.

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Stronger pound 'will hit jobs'

By James McDonald

THE POUND is over-valued by as much as 20 per cent against the U.S. dollar.

As a result, increasing import penetration and deteriorating export markets will have a severe effect on industrial profitability and firms will be forced to reduce numbers employed, with unemployment reaching nearly 2m by the end of 1980."

This is the forecast by Cheltenham, the investment and banking group, in its latest quarterly economic review. It says that Britain's oil and gas reserves are likely to meet the nation's requirements well into the 21st century, but this will result in a continued overvaluation of the pound and a worsening situation for Britain's manufacturing industry.

Short-term economies in oil consumption will not solve the world's oil problem, the review declares, and the shortage and above-average price rises for oil will persist through the 1980s.

"There can be no massive reduction in the demand for oil over the next 20 years since it will take at least 10 years for a new generation of cars to replace present stock and 20 years for new sources of power to displace dependence on oil."

The British Government is not likely to be deflected from its present policies for some time, the review adds, so "further substantial cuts in personal income tax can be expected in the summer of 1980, following wide ranging cuts in public sector spending and sale of public equity, which will help cut the money supply growth."

Train phone-in

BRITISH RAIL starts a telephone service today to advise commuters of evening rush-hour cancellations from Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street stations, London. A recorded message on 01-244 8080 from 3pm, Monday to Friday, will give expected changes.

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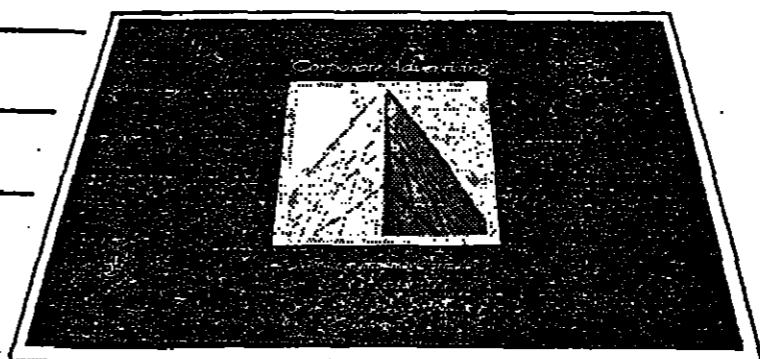
POSITION _____

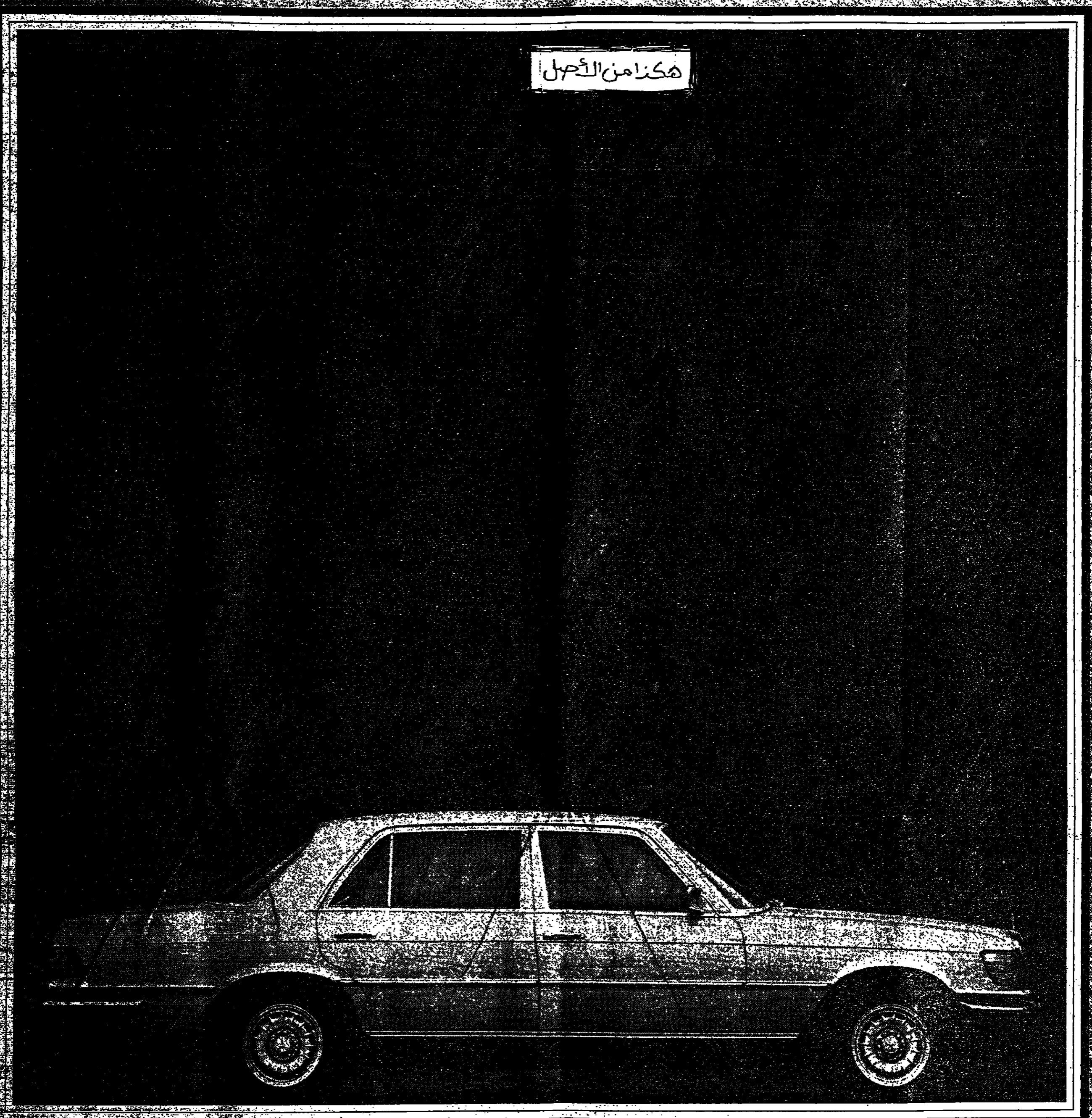
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INTRODUCTION

THE 54-7000

FRANZIS BERTZ

LOMBARD

Case for legal
'black markets'

WHEN I lived with my parents in North West London there was a lady who used to come every week to do the ironing. This lady had all the characteristics of a working-class Tory: and in fact had formerly been one. The person responsible for her conversion was Mr. Henry Brooke as he then was, who was Minister of Housing in the late 1950s. The house she had rented had been affected by the decontrol measures of the 1957 Act. As a result she could no longer live there and had to move to Nessend, with many mutterings against Mr. Brooke, whom she never forgave to the end of her days.

Mrs. Glyde—as I will call her—had a point. It is perfectly true that rent controls are more effective than bombing in destroying rented accommodation. If a properly functioning market in rented accommodation could be recreated, this would do far more to reduce the sustainable unemployment rate than the expensive network of subsidies and public spending which goes by the name of regional policy.

Abolition

The problem is that, once the folly of rent controls has been committed, their abolition does cause a redistribution of income against the tenant. This is not always a redistribution against the poor, but it certainly leads to a disappointment of legitimate expectations as in the case of Mrs. Glyde who had been paying a pretty nominal rent for decades without any realisation that this was liable to change.

But one can recreate a rental market without these adverse consequences. The sale of council houses to tenants, whatever its other merits and defects, actually reduces the supply of houses to let. The suggestion of Mr. John Stanley, the Minister for Housing and Construction, for short-term agreements under which the landlord would have the certainty of repossession—and the rents would presumably be mutually negotiated—is a step in the right direction.

This is not a miracle solution, but simply an application of the principle that if we are landed with below-market prices for any commodity, which then has to be rationed by coupon, queue, or official edict, the evils can be reduced by allowing a secondary free market to develop in the rights to the product in question.

Thus if the energy fanatics had their way and we had to have petrol rationing, much the most efficient and equitable system would be to legalise what will otherwise be a flourishing black market in petrol coupons. But the place to start with such a legalised secondary market is the rented sector.

market many houses too large or otherwise not really required by council tenants, but clinging on to present because of the high net cost of a move. A secondary market of this kind would also bring down house prices and reduce "key money" in the private rented sector. (The plan is described in my Institute of Economic Affairs Paper, *Participation Without Politics*.)

Accommodation

Secondary transactions do in fact occur, but are stamped on by the strong arm of the law.

For instance, a so-called scandal

came to light a few years ago in the London borough of Tower Hamlets where immigrant families "desperate for accommodation" were "jumping the housing queue by buying council rent books". One family was reported to have paid £460 for a flat and another £800, in addition to the normal weekly rent which they continued to pay to the Council. The Press report showed a photograph of the eviction of a family who had lived for two years in a flat secured in this way. They were being interviewed by a social worker and were now in council care, as a result of entirely sensible action.

The main reform required if such a secondary market is to be legalised is a clear definition of the terms of existing council tenancies. At the moment they have no definite length of life and their disposition on the departure of a tenant (whether to a member of the previous family or not) is within the discretion of the local council.

Yet there is a way of squaring the circle and introducing a large measure of *de facto* decontrol, while in fact improving rather than impairing the lot of people in existing controlled tenancies. The principle is the simple one of secondary markets. All that is required is for council—and possibly private—tenants to be able to relet their properties on longer or short leases at free market rents. This reform would release to the

Continuity, redundancy and ambiguity

IT IS a commonplace for a worker engaged on a particular job over a number of years to be told that his employer's business is being transferred and that for the future some one else will be paying him for performing precisely the same job. The question is whether the two periods of employment are regarded as continuous employment so as to confer a right to redundancy payment under the Redundancy Payments Act 1965 for the whole time if and when the worker is dismissed by the later employer for redundancy.

Four years ago the Court of Appeal held that the presumption of continuity of employment laid down in the Act was not confined to the case where there had been only one employer, but applied where there had been a change of employer with no change in job.

In *Evenden v. Guildford City Association Football Club Ltd.* the Court, headed by Lord Denning, went on to say that even if that was not the right construction of the Act, since the employer had told the worker that his employment would be regarded as unbroken on the transfer of the business to a new employer, the club could not go back on that agreement and had to pay redundancy at the rate for the whole period of the two employments. On both counts the House of Lords in a recent appeal raising the same

issues has resoundingly reversed the earlier decision. (Secretary of State for Employment v. *Globe Elastic Thread Co. Ltd.*)

In *Evenden's* case a football club and its supporters' club were separate organisations. The worker was employed by the supporters' club as a groundsman from August, 1955, to November, 1965 when he was transferred to do the same job by the football club. At the time of the transfer, all concerned agreed that the worker's services should be regarded as continuous.

In March, 1974, the worker was dismissed on the demise of the football club. He claimed redundancy payments of £459 in respect of 18 years service but the now defunct National Industrial Relations Court gave him only £127, based on six years' service.

Having reviewed the scheme of the Act with reference to various of its provisions, Lord Wilberforce stated that argument was "unmaintainable and contrary to the whole scheme of the Act." It was refuted unambiguously by the very first section which states: "Where an employee who has been continuously employed for the requisite period (s) is dismissed by his employer by reason of redundancy . . . then . . . the employer shall be liable to pay to him a sum of money" calculated upon the employer being liable to pay, and having paid, a redundancy payment under the Act.

Lord Wilberforce observed that the word "employed"

defined in the Act, but section 9(2) provides that "a person's employment during any period shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to have been continuous." The conception of continuity, it was argued, was capable of including not

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dismissing employer, and does no more than to relieve the employee of the necessity of proving continuity, that is, that a break in the employment has occurred. The presumption of continuity was necessary, for example, due to inadequate access to the employer's records.

What then about the agreement between the employer and employee that the change in paymaster would not break the continuity of the employment?

No doubt there would be a binding contract with the employee that the worker would retain the benefit of his previous employment, for which he could bring an action for damages. This factor had led the lower courts to avoid the multiplicity of actions that would result if employees had to sue in contract in the County Court as well as claim redundancy payments in the Industrial Tribunals. But such a contract could not be converted into a legal weapon

to stop the employer claiming one has to go back to 1961 for that there had been a break in the last time the House of Lords sat in session; it then heard two murder appeals from Northern Ireland when capital punishment was still in operation.

Whether the case has to be heard by the House of Lords and not by the Court of Appeal depends on the judgment from which an appeal is brought being "in a criminal cause or matter." The search and seizure by the Revenue was in pursuance of a search warrant issued by Judge Leonard, QC (the new Common Sergeant), at the Old Bailey. If it is in a criminal cause or matter, the appeal must go direct to the Lords; the Court of Appeal would have no jurisdiction. Whether the case is criminal depends on the nature and character of the proceeding in which the remedy is sought.

If the direct outcome of the proceedings to render the seizure of some of the documents is a trial and punishment for an alleged offence, it would be a criminal matter. The problem is that at this stage there are no criminal proceedings afoot, only a preliminary step in a criminal investigation. If the Court of Appeal feels it wishes to spare the House of Lords the need to hear the appeal in the coming days, it may reflect that the case may still go higher on appeal from that court, but later on.

"*IT LOOKS very much as if five Law Lords will be summoned back from their holiday retreats to hear the appeal of the Rossminster company complaining against the breadth of the raid by the Inland Revenue on their premises and seizing a vast quantity of documentation in connection with investigation into tax evasion.*

The Court of Appeal is being reconvened hurriedly to hear the appeal from the adverse ruling by the Divisional Court which sat a day past the official ending of the term. Three years ago the House of Lords similarly sat until August 2 to complete an appeal by the Secretary of State for Education in the Tameside case. But

in 1975 QB 917.

THE WEEK IN THE COURTS
BY JUSTINIAN

Secondary transactions do in fact occur, but are stamped on by the strong arm of the law. For instance, a so-called scandal came to light a few years ago in the London borough of Tower Hamlets where immigrant families "desperate for accommodation" were "jumping the housing queue by buying council rent books". One family was reported to have paid £460 for a flat and another £800, in addition to the normal weekly rent which they continued to pay to the Council. The Press report showed a photograph of the eviction of a family who had lived for two years in a flat secured in this way. They were being interviewed by a social worker and were now in council care, as a result of entirely sensible action.

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main reform if we are landed with below-market prices for any commodity, which then has to be rationed by coupon, queue, or official edict, the evils can be reduced by allowing a secondary free market to develop in the rights to the product in question.

Thus if the energy fanatics had their way and we had to have petrol rationing, much the most efficient and equitable system would be to legalise what will otherwise be a flourishing black market in petrol coupons. But the place to start with such a legalised secondary market is the rented sector.

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Hastings-Bass will have no reason not to renewing the association.

Hastings-Bass had plenty of time to assess White, for he learned a good deal of his craft with Australia's two leading trainers, Tommy Smith and Bart Cummings.

Britain, who does well at York, has another ambitious plan, for Lasko Flora will be based on the best there in the Benson and Hedges Gold Cup.

RACING
BY DOMINIC WIGAN

IT IS WELCOME news that Harry White, the Australian jockey, who rode such an unflustered race to get Greenham Park home in last season's Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot as the William Hastings-Bass filly began to show signs of inexperience, will be back with us next year.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OPERA & BALLET

GLOBE THEATRE, CC 01-437 1582. *Mon. to Fri. 8.30. Mat. 3.30. Sat. 3.30. Sun. 2.30.* *WE'RE BRITISH* IN THE WORLD OF COMEDY IN THE WORLD.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, 01-528 3191. *Tues. 3.30 and 7.30. Wed. 7.30. Sat. 3.30. Sun. 2.30.* *WE'RE BRITISH* IN THE WORLD OF COMEDY IN THE WORLD.

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THE ARTS

Young Vic

Night Child by B. A. YOUNG

Schoolgirl Kate has nightmares about human sacrifice in Woodhenge, and she gets up in the morning to watch the sun rise to see if the rays fall where the altar used to be. One day the other girls pretend to take her away for an offering. She spends a few days recovering from the resultant breakdown, but when she comes back she is still obsessed with the same subject, only now it's the Aztecs, and the potential sacrifice is not herself but her friend Jessika. Jessika is lucky, for on ("I presume") Midsummer Day it is Kate who, leaning against the window watching for the sun, falls to her death below.

Shankara Angadi's naive little tale was written for the girls of Queen's College, and it is they who play it at the Young Vic until August 25. It's good to see an all-female children's piece instead of those all-male pieces the National Youth Theatre tends to give us, but I don't think this is really up to quite such public display. The script and the inevitable rock music, all by Shankara Angadi, would seem OK in an end-of-term production at school, but they are really a bit thin. The multi-medium production, with yards of projected film that never builds up the necessary tension, is short of detail, and the music, divided between offstage tape and onstage girls, lacks any variety of atmosphere.

At any rate all the girls are enchanting as they exchange their girlish chat in the dorm. They speak up, and sing up, admirably, and I was always able to hear the words, though not necessarily grateful that I had. The direction, by Durien Angadi, does not always make clear what is happening. Most of all, I think, something should be done to differentiate the short scene in the sick-bay from the day-to-day scenes at school, and the girl (or nurse?) Rebecca who aggravated Kate's condition by adding to her knowledge of primitive religions, ought to be presented in more depth. The girls themselves are nicely differentiated, but even poor haunted Kate doesn't achieve enough importance. Perhaps an adult hand on the dialogue might be a good idea, for although Shankara Angadi is credited as author, the programme also says that the girls have invented their own speeches.



Diane Coulson, Kristin Flanders and Deborah Wapshot

Albert Hall/Radio 3

National Youth Orchestra

The concerts of the National Youth Orchestra are never more rewarding than when the orchestra plays unfamiliar scores with a technical excellence beyond their years and a fresh response not always to be assumed from tired professional organisations. So it was at Saturday's Prom, whose first half included Bartók's Dance Suite, a rarity at these concerts, and Szymanowski's Sinfonia Concertante for piano and orchestra, making a first appearance there. David Atherton conducted.

In the Dance Suite, Bartók both contrasts and reconciles folk music elements from Eastern Europe and North Africa—the happy outcome suggests a common origin ages ago. He uses only original material, without actual folksongs or dances. Mr Atherton was remarkably successful in getting the right accents, phrasing and sinewy rhythms from his players. Two small points. The first flute, an excellent player, has a touch of vibrato in his tone that mustn't be allowed to get wider. The piano part in the Bartók was barely audible. It doesn't need except when so marked to be loud but it must be definite enough to add colour and point.

Szymanowski, a good but not outstanding pianist, wrote the Sinfonia Concertante for him to play—how often has it been heard in London since he performed it at the BBC in 1934? In spite of the only moderate difficulty of the piano part, the work is dedicated to Rubinstein and was played by him and by another pianist friend, Smetterlin. By the time he wrote it, a belated interest in Polish folk music had partly

RONALD Crichton

shaken Szymanowski out of the dream world of *King Roger*. Yet in spite of the quest for transparency and clarity of form, though the new influence can be felt in the finale, encroaching unexpectedly far into Bartók's territory, the old luxuriance and gorgeous fabric, as the slow movement shows, is still there.

One might expect the bracing air of Bartók to appeal more strongly to this conductor than the seductions of Szymanowski, though his players in the NYO are at an age when such languors can be irresistible. Be that as it may, between them, and with John Bingham as fully sympathetic soloist, they made a strong case for the addition of the Sinfonia Concertante to the not inexhaustible repertory of 20th century works for piano and orchestra.

RONALD Crichton

Albert Hall

Bartók, Stravinsky & Wooldridge

I cannot remember a Promenade concert more incoherent than Friday's. For many people the scheduled first work, Stravinsky's *Les Noces*, will have been the main attraction; it was withdrawn without apology or explanation in the programme-book, in favour of the same composer's Concerto for two solo pianos. Now, the latter is a toughly worked-out masterpiece, uncompromisingly severe and demanding. It would have been a risky Prom piece in any case, but entrusted to Anne Shasby and Richard McMahon it was a monochromatic shadow of itself. Though they are thoughtful musicians, their powers of virtuoso projection are of a modest order, and conveying the massive power of the Concerto—ever keeping its intricate musical shapes in focus—was beyond them in this vast hall.

DAVID MURRAY

CRICKET BY TREVOR BAILEY

Test series has little meaning

THE IDEAL Test match should be played on a true, fast pitch between two teams of international calibre. In these conditions high quality bowlers supported by brilliant fielding will usually have to work long and hard for success against top-class batsmen. It is a long time since England have been engaged in a contest of this type, with their fine attack confronted by strong batting and their batsmen required to make runs against formidable bowling.

Last summer a dispirited Pakistan, without Packer players, provided no opposition, and New Zealand, who have never won a Test in this country, were simply not good enough. Last winter, the combination of indifferent wickets and the defection of most of their best players to World Series Cricket meant that Australia seldom scored 200 and never reached 300 in 12 innings.

The truth of the matter is the series means little, because the present Indian attack is so inapt under English conditions that a draw, through the efforts of their talented batsmen, is the best they can hope to achieve.

Certainly these tests provide no guide for our selectors, who need to find a team to beat Australia and to win a triangular limited-overs tournament, also involving the West Indies, with one can safely forecast, a large amount of cash at stake. It can be argued that it did not matter that our selectors have acted predictably in choosing the same team as at Lords with the addi-

tion of Wills, who, when fit, possesses greater pace and bounce than the other England seam bowlers.

Mike Brearley understandably wants to take to Australia virtually the same party that beat Yallop and company. Under his command, and assisted by the poverty of the opposition, England have acquired a pride, a resilience, and a belief in themselves, extremely valuable qualities which have helped to camouflage some obvious deficiencies.

Nevertheless it is hard to ignore the following facts: Last winter Brearley averaged 16 in six Tests and his opening partner, Geoff Boycott, now enjoying a marvellous summer, scored 263 in 12 innings for an average 21, occupying the crease for some 24 hours and hitting a total of six fours—one every four hours. These figures are a trifle worrying when one realizes that the Australian attack will be strengthened by the availability of Lillee, Thomson, Pascoe, Gilmour and Walker. Runs will be harder to obtain and bowlers more

patient. In addition to Gooch, Gower and Randall, I would strongly advocate including in the party two young cricketers with good techniques and the ability to cope with pace.

The batsmen to take are those who show they can make runs against Hadlee, Garner, Daniels and company. A big score against India is a tonic, but means little in terms of the requirements for next winter and summer.

It would defy logic if the selectors do not pick Underwood for the tour. He has already accounted for 70 batsmen and, as usual, has captured more wickets at less cost than any other spinner in the country. He has 265 test wickets to his credit and none of the present England slow bowlers will ever approach this feat.

His record is in Australia, where he can also be employed as an effective stock bowler, is extremely good. Finally, this is a new-style tour with a heavy emphasis on limited overs cricket, and Underwood is just about the best break bowler in the business.

In India's second innings at Lord's last Monday, for the first time in the present series a Test resembled a genuine international and the England

bowlers were forced to labour. It gave them a taste of what to expect in Australia this winter, assuming the pitches improve, and against the West Indies next summer.

It is to be hoped that the sight back by Venkateswaran and Viswanath will provide the Indians with more confidence for the next encounter, starting at Headington on Thursday, though the number of seam-dominated tests there in recent years does not bode well for them.

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Elizabeth Hall

Ravel and Mozart

by ANDREW CLEMENTS

Between them the Gabrieli and Vermeer Quartets are contributing four of Mozart's great string quintets to this year's Summer Music. The work omitted is the last, in E flat; on Thursday the Gabrieli with Arnold Steinhardt as second violin played the C major K515. Prefaced by Ravel—the duo for violin and cello, and the piano trio—it promised an evening of balance and variety. But the final impression was of rather bland, smoothed-out performances, almost as if touched by high-summer drowsiness.

To the Duo Steinhardt and Lynn Harrell brought their expected polish and unanimity. Shorn of the rest of the Guarneri Quartet (which he leads), Steinhardt is a sweet-toned, elegant violinist, not in the least prone to force or drive the music nor to lend it heavy, muscular tone. In the duo at least that was a disadvantage. It is by some measure Ravel's most stringent instrumental work—full of bitonal passages and polyrhythms, able to sustain an almost Bartókian intensity of expression. Tamed by Steinhardt and Harrell it was integrated into the Ravel canon with surprising ease, with the slow movement of its usual

pathetic force and the finale of most of its recalcitrance.

The young Israeli Yefim Bronfman joined the duo partners for the piano trio. Perhaps inhibited by his seniors—Harrell in particular seemed withdrawn and ill at ease for such a usually commanding player—he coped with but did not project Ravel's hefty piano writing. There were beautiful moments, though, at the beginning of the first and last movements. Bronfman's unmannered presentation paying dividends at the very opening. Steinhardt and Harrell finding a magical balance of textures to support the first theme of the finale.

"Blind and smoothed-out" is not perhaps an entirely fair description of the performance of the first movement of the C major Quintet, at least. The Gabrieli were certainly not their most forceful, but their playing these days is remarkably sure of structure and period style—hard edges have generally been replaced by soft, moulded contours. They controlled the sweep of the great Allegro but failed to inject any vitality into the minuet, leaving the repeats unvaried in accent and phrasing, and unhappily failed to rekindle the vital spark for the last two movements.

The paintings are the Suffolk Collection, originating from Charlton Park, which are predominantly portraits, and the majority of these 17th century masterpieces including the stunning *Berkshire Marriage* Set by William Larkin (so-called despite the absence of both bride and groom). They are pictures to lean on: yards of dove-grey, slashed satin, turkey carpets of rich jewel colours, ropes of pearls and layers of lace. In addition the personalities are clearly defined, character could still out in the early 1600s—none of those bland, pulsating faces had yet come to roost on the walls of country mansions.

Although the settings for the paintings are bare, the aim is to gradually build up an appropriate furnished background.

For the moment the rooms lack warmth, though the custodians compensate by giving the portraits an independent existence a little puzzle to the visitor on first hearing—thus, "Lady

Architecture

Rangers House, Blackheath

by GILLIAN DARLEY

Dorothy should be back soon, but Isabel is looking very nice." (The ladies in question coming and going from the restorer.)

Two of the smaller rooms are panelled but the finest space in the house is undoubtedly the gallery with its magnificent ceiling that looks out on three sides. This wing was added by Philip, 4th Earl of Chesterfield, to the early 18th century house which he had inherited in 1748. Originally the most reluctant of owners he seems to have fallen for the place in no time at all—by 1750 he had completed the gallery, his architect probably Isaac Ware. By 1754, surveying his famed garden of melons and pineapples, he was able to state with conviction: "This I find is my proper place."

The house and the Suffolk collection were brought together and first opened to the public in 1974. Despite the quality of the house and exhibits the visitor is not drawn back frequently by changing exhibitions, as at Kenwood. This means that the attendance figures are relatively low for a house in such a location, back-to-back on Greenwich Park and centrally situated on Blackheath itself. The excuse cannot be that Rangers House does not offer accommodation, for the entire upper storey is vacant and in good order, having been vacated by the GLC themselves a couple of years ago.

Few visitors would guess at the "fine staircase with variably twisted banisters" (all of oak) that Pevsner refers to. This, too, is out of sight. Half of the rooms in Rangers House are in fact disused and it seems an unjustifiable waste of such an asset, particularly since the cost of putting this floor into use would be a small percentage of the total expended at present on the house—money deployed on a little visited and relatively unknown museum. It is hoped that on the transfer of the GLC historic houses to the Arts and Recreation section (as opposed to the present GLC) priorities will reassess themselves and the full potential of Rangers House will be realised.

Lots of uses for the upper rooms have been suggested and are being explored by curator John Jacob. The ever-expanding collection of historic musical instruments from the German Museum could be housed there; it could be used for local history exhibitions; and displays connected with the house and the Suffolk collection itself be mounted.

Newspaper stereos, now an accepted item in British villas, are needed to provide an excuse for putting the rooms back into use. Certainly the GLC cannot financially justify the waste of space and the public should be able to view the house as a whole, rather than as a fragment.

The matching of the Suffolk collection with Rangers House is a most successful arrangement; the rest of the upper floors would be another

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That Pevsner refers to the former must have been a hindrance.

The horns had a wretched night, perhaps drained by the muggy evening; the muffed solos did less damage than their domino-style collective attack in all the darkly resplendent music of Act 2. Neither Miss Green as Brünnhilde nor the first trumpet was anything like pointed enough in her oath on Hagen's spear, though her passion in the scene almost made up for the rhythmic slackness. But from a decent beginning—confident, intermittently gusty singing in the Prologue, with an awkwardly intonating manner suggesting an over-anxious affectation—she improved rapidly. In one of the original legends Brynhild was a wild witch-woman, living alone and feared in the woods: one remembered that with the desperate, trapped creature Miss Green presented so intensely in Act 2. There was

maturity and fine control in the Imbolc scene, and even some radiance; I wished that Groves had helped her with an appropriate tightening of the tempo toward the end.

His account of the score is admirably steady, and not stolid. The astounding range of orchestral colour in the opera was given its due whenever the playing permitted: Gutmann's high woodwinds were always delicately, poignantly drawn out. The brass grew increasingly bold and assertive, at the expense of most of the string line. Plainly Groves wanted the music to speak for itself—but the second scene on Brünnhilde's rock really needed a more pressing hand, if Miss Green and the players were not to be left bemused and adrift. The arrival of Katherine Pringle's Waltraute was welcome, as strong and committed as ever, despite a now "recitable" tendency to worried little gestures. The part of the Second Norn sits well on her voice; the other Norns sit Anne Collins and Elizabeth Connell better. There were well-timed Rhinemaidens, and Patrick Wheatley's interesting Gunther, vividly gnawed by his hidden pride, was complemented by Avo June's touchingly simple Guntrine, a girlish forsister. As a whole, a considerable performance, winningly faithful and unaffected.

Royal Variety Show

This year's Royal Variety Performance will be held at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and not at its traditional home, the London Palladium.

The change of venue was announced by Louis Benjamin, who is presenting the show for the first time, taking over from Lord Delfont. Mr Benjamin, who is managing director of the Palladium, said it would be impossible to stage the performance there this year as it would take a week to remove and then restore the set and scenery of The King and I, the musical running at the Palladium.

YACHTING BY SAM VITE

Admiral's Cup may go to Ireland

FEW BRITISH yachtsmen waiting for news of the Fastnet race this morning would be unhappy to hear that the Irish boats are going well. If Britain cannot take the Admiral's Cup for the third time in a row, then it would be a good thing for ocean racing if the Irish were to come out on top.

The Fastnet Rock—key mark on the course of this 800-mile marathon race—is just off the coast of Southern Ireland, and many of the Irish team come from around Cork which is not so far away.

As the race started on Saturday, it looked as though the trio of Irish yachts was determined to keep up with its high-scoring record. Irishman and Golden Apple both made good starts as the fleet went off from the Royal Yacht Squadron line at Cowes. Regardless, the third boat in the team and the highest point scorer of the series to date, was not far behind.

Then there is Police Car, the two-tonner skippered by Peter Cartwell. Despite the upset of a collision and an injured crewman in one of the earlier races, this aggressively sailed yacht is one of the highest scorers in the fleet. Ireland's lead over the United States is just 14 points and with the Fastnet race scoring treble points that is an easily lost advantage.

Australia is a further nine points astern, so three boats in the ten would probably be enough to give victory to any of that leading trio of Ireland, America, or Australia. Then you have to give some consideration to the just possible Hong Kong, who are lying fourth in the table. That is largely due to consistent sailing—no spectacular wins, but no disastrous failures either. As the fleet headed for Portland Bill on Saturday the three Hong Kong boats were sailing steadily together in the middle of the fleet, keeping clear of trouble, collisions and protest-provoking manoeuvres.

Great Britain musters a good tally for all its boats, and the leaders went astray, just possible that it could improve on its final position of two years ago when it finished third. Italy is nearly 30 points behind Hong Kong, with France and Britain only separated by one point and lying in sixth and seventh places. None of those countries can really hope to take the honours unless it happens to score high points

with all three yachts and the favourite goes bushy wrong.

Statistically it is possible, but highly unlikely. But the most fascinating aspect of the Fastnet race will be the winning time. The record is held by American Eagle, a non-cup yacht, which finished at Plymouth just over 70 hours after leaving Cowes in 1971.

This year there is a big fleet of maxi-boats among more than 300 yachts in all classes of the race. When last seen going away into the dusk on Saturday evening the Australian fleet Kialor was setting the pace. She was ahead of the 77-foot Condor, the boat which sailed so successfully in the last Whitbread Round-the-World race. If the long-range forecast of big seas and strong winds in the Irish Sea proves accurate, one of those ocean greyhounds could well break that record. The thousands of yachtsmen sailing on hundreds of boats will be hoping for brisker going than two years ago, when the first over the line took 51 days, and some smaller yachts were running short of food and water.



Leopold Bell

Anna Green

LOCK AUTHOR BOMB

BY TREVOR BAILEY

Test series has little meaning

The vanishing oil crisis

WE CAN all breathe again. The earth has not been tilted off its axis after all. The oil supply crisis, which promised all manner of disasters, has disappeared as quickly as it started. Or so it would seem.

However, this is no time for complacency. Energy supply problems persist and even if they are not as obvious as the springtime queues at petrol stations they have serious implications for the world's economic outlook. For a start, the shortage has left a legacy of much higher fuel prices which in turn is bound to hit output. A barrel of oil which would have cost around \$13 at the end of last year is now priced at about \$22 (or over \$30 if sold on the spot market). Already members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are talking about raising the price again, if not at a special meeting in September, then at their scheduled oil ministers' meeting in Venezuela just before Christmas.

The producers are as determined as ever to ease prices up even further to a point—as yet ill-defined—where crude oil carries the value of alternative energy sources. That is the long-term aim. They also have a shorter-term ambition: to recover what they claim they will have lost through worldwide inflation and the falling value of the dollar.

Today Iran is exporting less than 3m b/d. In the light of the continuing political uncertainty in the country even this reduced level of sales must be deemed to be under a constant threat. And there are other worrying factors. Saudi Arabia could cut its additional 1m b/d of output at any time, particularly if it feels that major importers—the U.S. above all—are not doing enough to conserve energy and to develop alternative fuel sources. Add to this the reported warnings from other OPEC members like Kuwait, Libya, Algeria and Nigeria that they, too, may trim their production levels and you have the plot for yet another oil crisis drama.

For it is an uncomfortable fact that OPEC producers are becoming more interested in raising the price of crude than in raising production levels. Countries with a limited capacity to absorb oil revenues—notably Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi—are increasingly questioning the wisdom of piling up petro-dollars when the value of oil in the ground can provide healthy growth prospects. Countries more in need of the oil revenues—such as Nigeria and Algeria—are quickly learning that they can earn more money from producing less than from producing more. So while the shortage may have disappeared, the tightness in supplies remains. Consumers are on a tightrope; a slip or a jolt could send them tumbling back into the petrol queues.

Achievable

That, essentially, is where we are today. Latest industry figures indicate that OPEC's output in the second quarter was 30.9m barrels a day, an increase of 1.8m b/d on the first three months of this year. The International Energy Agency recently forecast that if OPEC could maintain an output of 30.3m b/d for the year as a whole, the supply shortage could be eliminated. Thanks largely to Saudi Arabia's increased production IEA's estimate looks to be achievable.

Warning signs in W. Germany

WEST GERMANY'S hitherto model economy is beginning to show signs of strain. For some time now, Dr. Olmar Emminger, the Bundesbank President, has been warning of the dangers of inflation and advocating tight monetary policies—at the expense, the business community would argue, of risking renewed recession. More recently, Dr. Emminger has added a further warning that the Government cannot expect funds to be easily available to finance vote-catching policies in the run-up to next year's elections.

Inflation

Dr. Emminger's Cassandra utterances on inflation were borne out last week by the cost-of-living figures for July, which showed the biggest year-on-year rise for three years. The West German inflation rate is now expected to pass the five per cent mark in the coming months—earlier than many economic forecasters had thought. Five per cent is hardly dramatic by general West European standards. Britain, France and Italy would all be overjoyed if they could bring their double-figure rates down to such a level. But it is more than enough to set warning lights flashing in Germany.

In a country traditionally obsessed by inflation, an upward movement of this apparent strength is not something that Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, is likely to welcome at a time when he faces what could be a tough battle for re-election—despite his overwhelming lead in the latest public opinion polls. Much of his popularity rests on his reputation as the man who has masterfully steered the country through the shoals of the wider world economic crisis of the past few years.

The latest figures could, in the end, turn out to Herr Schmidt's advantage if the rise can be checked. Coming as they do on top of extremely low rises in the cost-of-living last year, they could produce favourable comparisons when next year's figures are published. But there is a long way to go until then, and there are a number of other signs that the economy is beginning to look less healthy than it did earlier this year.

The West German economy is one of the most resilient in the world. So far, the country has coped better with the international economic crisis, and the challenges of adjustment, than most of its Western partners. But the electorate next year is going to judge Herr Schmidt's performance by German, not international standards. His economic and political skills could once again be put to a difficult test in the coming months.

Resilient

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The ruinous cost of producing too much sugar

By JOHN EDWARDS, Commodities Editor

TATE AND LYLE'S decision to close another of its four remaining sugar canes refineries in November comes at a time when the future structure of EEC sugar policy is in the air.

During the next year the Common Market will have to face up to some crucial questions: how to reduce the present ruinous cost of producing too much sugar; the future role of cane imports (and thereby the future of the cane refining industry in Britain); and the EEC relationship with world sugar producers, particularly those developing countries whose economies are heavily reliant on sugar exports.

The three issues are closely linked. The only reason there is not a sugar "mountain" in the EEC is because huge amounts of money (an estimated £400m in the past season) are spent on dumping surplus supplies on the world market.

At times the export subsidy paid out has greatly exceeded the world market price of around £90 a tonne. Even more senseless is that the dumping of surpluses on the world market in this way depresses the price even further and raises the cost of the subsidy.

Creation of surplus

But the powerful beet lobby in the Community is quick to point out that the size of EEC surplus sugar exports is inflated by the 1.3m tonnes of cane sugar imported annually from developing countries.

So the debate about future EEC sugar supplies must include not only means of controlling domestic beet production, but also the Community attitude to cane imports and the trends in the world sugar market.

The stimulus given to sugar output in the Community by higher prices and production quotas, especially in the panic that followed the "shortage" in 1974, has created a surplus of supplies even without the imports of cane sugar.

Given reasonable weather conditions EEC beet production is expected to reach some 1.1m tonnes this season. Consumption within the Community is likely to be below 9.5m tonnes, so there will be 1.5m tonnes domestic surplus in addition to the 1.3m tonnes of cane imports.

Demand for sugar in the Common Market, like other industrialised countries, is stagnant. In Britain demand has fallen from 2.6 to 2.4m tonnes annually.

So the surplus can be expected to continue, unless some positive measures are taken to reduce plantings. The main debate among Common Market countries on the new regime will centre on a carve up of quotas.

At the moment production of sugar in the EEC is supposedly controlled by quotas—each country is assigned a "basic" "A" quota, which receives the full guaranteed price; a "B" quota, which receives 70 per cent of the guarantee; and a "C" quota that has no protection at all.

Past performance is expected to be an important influence in deciding what quotas will be allocated to individual countries. The British Sugar Corporation has been making desperate efforts to increase its output as much as possible. Beet plantings have been raised to record levels and processing capacity has been increased to 1.25m tonnes, under a crash expansion programme.

Unfortunately for the Corporation the weather has been unkind. There were three disastrous years, from 1975 to 1977, when crop yields were very low. Only last year did yields return to anywhere near normal levels and a crop of over 1m tonnes was produced, still below the existing A quota for the UK.

Nevertheless the drive to increase UK beet production has put pressure on the domestic sugar market and cane refiners in particular. Before Britain's entry into the EEC, the market was "managed" by the Government. There was a commitment under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement to import some 1.7m tonnes at a negotiated fixed price. Domestic beet production provided the remaining sugar required. The Government set an equalised selling price for both cane and beet sugar. A shortfall in domestic beet or Commonwealth imports, was made up from other sources but otherwise the market was closed.

One of Britain's conditions before joining the EEC was that cane sugar imports from the Commonwealth countries should be retained, because of their importance to the supplying countries.

After a long wrangle, it was agreed to continue importing cane sugar under a new agreement (part of the Lomé Convention) between the EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) sugar exporters, which included the Commonwealth suppliers.

However Australia, which had previously supplied 350,000 tonnes a year under the Commonwealth Agreement, was excluded since it was not considered to be a developing country dependent on sugar exports.

This meant an immediate loss of 350,000 tonnes production for the UK cane refining industry, which was already suffering from problems of over-capacity.

The expansion in domestic beet production and the decline in consumption have since added further to the cane refiners' problems. So has an inflow of imports of EEC beet sugar, amounting to 200,000 tonnes a year.

Something drastic had to be done to reduce the very costly surplus of cane refining capacity in Britain, especially once Australian supplies were forced out.

In the face of strong opposition from the unions, Tate and Lyle's reduced its workforce and capacity by closing down its Hammersmith refinery. All but a small part of the 1.3m tonnes the EEC has pledged to import on an annual basis comes to Britain. This is not the case with cane sugar, where production comes from all over the world.

Its survival is not only crucial to Tate and Lyle, but also to a much wider range of interests, outside the Community, in particular to the African-Caribbean countries supplying cane sugar under the Lomé Convention.

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and the two Greenock refiners 250,000 tonnes—140,000 at Westburns and 110,000 at Walkers—making a total output of 1.45m tonnes.

ing the Thames refinery, ACP shipments would be cut back drastically even though the Lomé Convention commitment is of indefinite duration.

The EEC beet lobby would, therefore, have achieved by indirect means what it has long advocated—that it makes no sense to import cane sugar into the Community, which is already more than self-sufficient. Much better, argue the beet growers, that the EEC gives some financial aid to compensate for the loss of earnings.

Cane producers are quick to disagree. They point out that financial aid does not create jobs, and it leaves the recipient countries in a vulnerable position should they incur the displeasure of the Community.

At the same time there is a strong case, apart from the survival of the UK cane refining industry, for the EEC continuing to import cane sugar. Dependence on one source of supply can be dangerous, particularly with agricultural crops.

Bad weather conditions in one country in the Community tend to be reproduced in all member countries. So a shortfall in British beet production, for example, might not be met from other EEC countries. This is not the case with cane sugar, where production comes from all over the world.

Cane suppliers argue that the only real answer is for the EEC to cut back sugar production. This would not only relieve the pressure on the world market, which is being undermined by heavily subsidised EEC exports, but also save the Community itself a great deal of money. They claim that it is the expansion in EEC output, accelerated by the granting of incentives to growers after the

1974 shortage, that has helped create the current disastrous situation with world sugar prices well below the cost of output even for the most efficient producers.

After taking out special deals like the agreements between the EEC and ACP countries, Russia and Cuba and of course domestic consumption, the free market in sugar accounts for about 1.8m tonnes out of world output of over 9m tonnes, but is very important to countries relying on sugar export earnings.

Because it is a residual market, values tend to fluctuate wildly—they reached a peak of £650 a tonne in 1974 and by 1978 had slumped back to £50. An attempt to stabilise the market is being made by the International Sugar Agreement, which came into force at the beginning of 1978. The pact between leading exporting and importing countries, aims to use a system of export quotas and financing of surpluses held off the market to keep world sugar prices in a range of between 12 to 21 cents a pound.

It has not worked yet, however. Prices remain well below the minimum level of 11 cents, despite the cutting back of sugar production by producing countries. One reason is that the U.S. has so far failed to ratify the Agreement over domestic sugar policy. This has prevented the introduction of levies to finance the proposed buffer stock arrangement to remove surpluses from the market.

The second reason is that the EEC has not only failed to join the Agreement, but also continues to dump subsidised sugar exports on the world market. The 3m tonnes exported by the EEC is a large proportion of

the total free market of 18m tonnes. The Community is currently by far the largest single supplier, not hampered by quotas or the need to obtain an economic price.

The EEC's refusal to join the Agreement, despite heavy political pressure from developing countries, is due to French insistence that limitation of exports would undermine the whole Community sugar regime.

Tarnished image

There has been talk of the EEC adopting a parallel policy—that is cutting back exports in line with the quotas imposed on other leading exporters. But negotiations are at an early stage and it seems likely that little progress will be made until the EEC has decided on its new sugar regime due to come into effect from 1980-81.

But if the U.S. does eventually ratify its membership of the International Sugar Agreement as expected in the next few months, the EEC will be under extreme pressure to join as well.

Apart from the national interests, which are likely to dominate the sugar regime discussions, there are wider issues for the EEC to consider. One is the damaging influence on the rest of the sugar world, and particularly poor countries, of its present high-priced regime.

It is argued that the present surplus is only temporary and that the world will need EEC sugar in the years ahead. But by continuing to produce too much the EEC will make the threatened shortage worse by discouraging output elsewhere in the world. No one can afford the heavy investment required for expanding sugar processing and refining capacity, while subsidised EEC exports undermine the International Agreement and keep prices at grossly uneconomic levels.

One answer may be to look at the possibility of converting more surplus sugar into alcohol. Brazil, and some other leading countries, have launched an ambitious programme to turn more sugar into alcohol. This saving themselves large amounts of foreign exchange spent on all imports.

As yet, however, there is not the same economic justification in the EEC; it is still far cheaper to import oil, particularly bearing in mind the high cost of sugar production in the Community. But sugar is a potential alternative source of energy that cannot be ignored, although availability of sufficient land is crucial.

Britain, having given in this year by agreeing to a rise in EEC prices and an cut back in quotas, could decide that the review of the sugar regime is a good time to press for a reform of this part of the common agricultural policy—not only to ensure the survival of the UK cane refining industry, but also that the pledge to Commonwealth suppliers is fully honoured.

MEN AND MATTERS

British Rail sails into ferry furore

During this summer of celebrations to mark the millennium of Tynwald, the island's parliament, Manxmen have not lacked nautical diversions. The replica of a Norse longship arrived from Scandinavia; last week the King of Norway paid a visit in his royal yacht; now the ferryboat war is building up a full head of steam.

A challenge to the 149-year-old Isle of Man Steam Packet Company is being mounted by British Rail's Sealink. It has a 60 per cent share in Manx Line, which has announced cut-price fares from the mainland for the next nine months. This is enraging some islanders who suspect a nationalised industry of trying to carve up an old private firm.

But I have learnt that Manx Line is a splendid venture.

Financial director Len Merryweather told me: "We are presently reviewing pricing policy. I expect to have prices in front of me within a few days." This contrasts sharply with an earlier statement by another Sealink official, that control over Manx Line's commercial decisions is "minimal".

Sluggish external demand, and an unfavourable trend in the terms of trade, have already eaten into the country's traditional surpluses on trade and current account. The latest figures published by the Federal Statistical Office appear to support private forecasts that West Germany is heading for an almost unheard-of current account deficit by next year at the latest. The trade surplus in the first half of this year was the lowest since 1973.

But perhaps the most worrying prospect is the threat of mounting discontent among the trade unions this winter. So far trade union leaders have headed off demands from the rank and file for a special bonus to compensate for the effects of higher fuel prices in advance of the annual winter wage round. But further rises in energy prices, as well as in the overall inflation rate, would considerably increase the pressure in the months ahead. Even if demands for special bonuses are resisted, the wage round could be extremely difficult.

Steam Packet manager Sidney Shinnin assures me that what happened in the air will not be repeated on water: "We've had several ferry rivals in the past century. They come and they go."

Although the Commonwealth Conference in Lusaka was like a nest of singing birds, such harmony in African get-togethers is rare. The next big event on the continent's calendar is provoking dismay even while almost a year away.

This is the 1980 Organisation of African Unity Conference, to be held in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone.

Recent experience suggests that the result is unlikely to match the expense: the 1979 OAU gathering in Liberia ended in open quarrelling, but the cost to the host nation was around £80m. International aid bodies bring their hands in despair as each African nation tries to outdo its predecessor. President Sekou Toure of Guinea has taken the hint and

simply declined the honour of the 1981 "summit".

But President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone is anxious for the prestige. His government has given its official estimate for "dressing up" the country and running the conference as £23.5m. Unofficial estimates say that allowing for inflation (running at around 40 per cent) a more probable figure is £150m.

Resentment is growing in Sierra Leone among the army of unemployed at the luxury being prepared for Africa's leaders. Sixty lavish bungalows are being erected just outside the capital, a new hotel is nearing completion and night-time entertainment spots are being extended. At the airport, six new aprons are being made for Presidential aircraft.

When the son-in-law explained patiently: "An elephant kicked in it," the police breathalyser was quickly brought into play. A positive result had led to an £80 fine and one-year driving ban.

Another cause for tension, I learn, is that many of the biggest contracts are being handed out to the tightly-knit group of Lebanese traders who dominate Sierra Leone's economy.

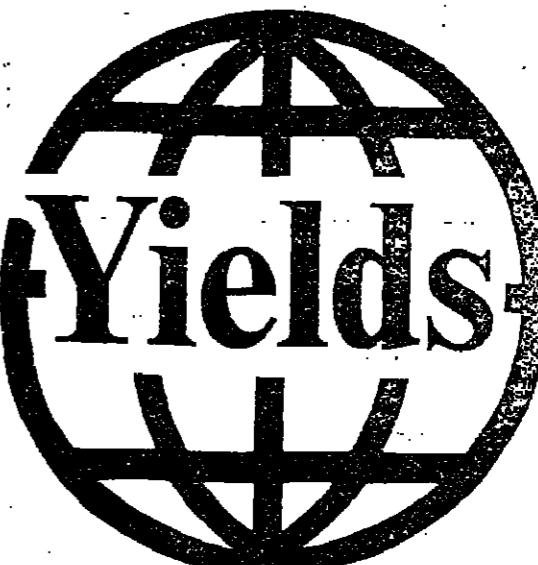
The Steam Packet Company, in which the island's Government has a 13.5 per cent stake, is defiantly expanding its operations. Since there will not be enough traffic—especially in the winter—for both lines, some liaison must appear logical. But Manxmen dismiss the idea: some still darkly recall how the island's own airline was taken over by British European Airways 40 years ago.

Earlier this year the Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone warned of the prospect for a much increased budgetary deficit for 1979. With the political fiasco of the OAU meeting in mind, there is a growing possibility that the IMF—President Stevens's principal backer—will be leaning on him to scale down next year's spectacular while there is yet time.

If you have sold all of your stock please hand this letter immediately to the stockbroker or bank through whom the sale was effected, for transmission to the purchaser.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Eurobond Quotations and Yields

THE ASSOCIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

At 31st JULY, 1979

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues.

These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month.

There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres.

Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

Eurobonds in July

BY FRANCIS CHILES

The crisis of the Carter presidency had immediate practical consequences for the dollar sector of the Eurobond market last month. The confusion which surrounded the U.S. government led investors to adopt a strict wait and see attitude when it came to investing in dollar bonds as they tried to guess how the U.S. currency and interest rates would be affected by fast moving events in Washington.

The President's choice of Mr. Paul Volcker to be Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board

won praise from the banking community both in the U.S. and outside. Mr. Volcker holds "conservative" economic views in that he believes in controlling inflation and maintaining a sound dollar. He has served at the Treasury and in recent years as President of the New York Federal Reserve Bank; his views are thus well known to the banking community. Following the Bundesbank's decision in the second week of July to increase rates, a discount and Lombard rates, a strong surge of buying of Deutsche Mark denominated paper developed.

charge had been levelled throughout his tenure of office at Mr. G. William Miller who replaced Mr. Michael Blumenthal at the Treasury.

Conversely the action moved to Germany where a big rush into DM bonds developed during the last two weeks of July, and for a brief period at least to the sterling sector of the market. Following the Bundesbank's decision in the second week of July to increase rates, a discount and Lombard rates, a

With trading at a low level in the major sector of the market during most of July, the introduction of certain new techniques in the way in which new bond issues are floated claimed the attention of bond syndication managers and dealers alike.

In its first attempt to introduce competitive bidding for a public Eurobond issue, the EIB succeeded in raising \$100m at a lower cost than if it had used more traditional methods.

The changes introduced by S. G. Warburg when later in the month it arranged a \$100m public issue for the Kingdom of Sweden were different in kind but the aim was the same as that of the EIB: to reduce the commissions paid by the market.

Through this latest tactic the EIB was aiming to reduce the cost of its own bond flotation: another claim made by the borrower, that it wanted to see the small investor get a better deal, was less convincing.

In the event, all went smoothly. Three bidders were successful. Citicorp was allotted \$50m worth of bonds. Samuel Montagu and Algemeen Bank Nederland \$25m each. Each of the three banks bid alone and final terms for this \$100m issue included a coupon of 9.70 per cent instead of the normal 10 per cent. This 1 per cent is made up of a management fee of 1 per cent, an underwriting fee of 1 per cent and a selling commission of 1 per cent. Such a reduction amounted in practice to rationalising existing market practices rather than cutting the cost of raising money for the borrower. Institutional investors are usually able to get the bonds from the managers of an issue minus the full amount of the fees.

of seasoned issues in the dollar sector as a whole.

This innovation if followed by other banks would bring Eurobond market practices more closely in line with the rules which prevail in the Yankee bond market. Another innovation related to the commissions paid by the borrower, which were much lower than current practice, one per cent instead of the normal 10 per cent. This 1 per cent is made up of a management fee of 1 per cent, an underwriting fee of 1 per cent and a selling commission of 1 per cent.

The yield to the bidding banks, on an annual yield to maturity basis, works out at 10.16 per cent, but the effective cost to the EIB was slightly higher than this because it bore the costs of organising the tender. The EIB had nevertheless succeeded in raising funds more cheaply than it had stuck to tradition and given a mandate to a bank to organise the bond issue.

In this instance, investors, especially institutional ones, bought the bonds at the issue price. In some cases however, a reallowance of 1 per cent was granted. The good performance of this issue in the secondary market suggested the issue had been placed in firm hands: the aim of achieving better distribution of the bond and a good secondary market performance were thus achieved. The exercise was made easier by the quality and maturity of the paper. However special the circumstances, this innovation pointed to a direction in which many market participants hope the Eurobond market will move.

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came when the EIB invited about 30 international banks to make competitive bids for a public Eurobond issue of between \$50-100m. Banks were asked by the borrower to quote the net proceeds they would offer for the EIB. The price to the investors and the rewards to the banks were left to the banks to decide, after judging the level of investor demand and assessing the mood of the market.

In its first attempt to introduce competitive bidding for a public Eurobond issue, the EIB succeeded in raising \$100m at a lower cost than if it had used more traditional methods.

The changes introduced by S. G. Warburg when later in the month it arranged a \$100m public issue for the Kingdom of Sweden were different in kind but the aim was the same as that of the EIB: to reduce the commissions paid by the borrower to the issuing banks.

Both these attempts to introduce a certain number of changes came less than two months after the annual meeting of the Association of International Bond dealers in London failed to agree on measures which would be introduced to bring about changes in the way new issues are floated, measures which the bond dealing community, by and large, felt were necessary. Both attempts made independently last month succeeded but it is not clear whether they will be adopted quickly by other houses. The interest they have generated suggests that they will not be forgotten but the market will probably take its time before adopting them as normal practice.

The first major development

Banks were able to put in more than one tender for a given tranche or number of tranches, at different prices. A number of banks reacted with hostility to what the EIB was doing, not least the big three Swiss banks. Others, notably Citicorp, welcomed the idea while much of the banking community was left wondering how to respond.

The confusion was all the greater as there are no well established syndicates of banks in the Eurobond market, as is the case in New York. Were the tender system to spread to the Eurobond market, syndicates would eventually emerge. But, four weeks ago, a game akin to

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Austrian Quotes

Quotations and Yields of Austrian Eurobonds

ISSUE	COUPON DATES	REPAYMENT	SINKING FUND (STARTING)	PRICE		CURRENT YIELD	CURRENT YIELD TO MATURITY
				BID	ASKED		
D-MARK BONDS							
6 1/2% Brenner Autobahn 1968 (G)	1.2-1.8	1.8.74-83	18.73	100	100 1/2	6.73%	6.78%
6 1/2% Donaukraftwerke 1959 (G)	1.2-1.8	12.65-84	—	98 1/2	99 1/2	6.05%	6.33%
6 1/2% Donaukraftwerke 1973 (G)	1.3	13.73-87	112.77	99 1/2	100	6.78%	6.81%
7 1/2% Girozentrale Wien 1976	1.11	1.11.81	—	100 1/2	101 1/2	6.94%	6.57%
7 1/2% Girozentrale Wien 1976	1.11	1.11.83	—	101 1/2	102 1/2	7.11%	6.70%
8 1/2% IAKW 1975 (G)	1.5	15.80-85	—	103 1/2	103 1/2	8.45%	7.97%
6 1/2% Kelag 1973 (S)	1.5	1.5.79-88	12.78	98 1/2	99 1/2	6.81%	6.88%
8 1/2% Oester. Draukraftwerke 1975 (G)	1.3	13.81-85	—	105 1/2	106 1/2	8.24%	7.39%
7 1/2% Oester. Elektrizitatswirt 1967 (G)	1.2-1.8	12.73-87	—	99 1/2	100 1/2	6.99%	7.07%
7 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1968	1.4-1.10	14.73-82	14.72	101 1/2	102	6.58%	6.37%
6 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1969	1.4-1.10	14.75-83	11.74	99 1/2	100 1/2	6.49%	6.56%
9 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1975	1.2	12.83	—	103 1/2	104 1/2	8.63%	7.60%
8 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1975	1.5	15.78-87	12.77	107 1/2	108 1/2	7.87%	7.13%
7 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1976	2.5	23.83-88	12.82	105 1/2	106 1/2	7.33%	7.68%
6 1/2% Rep. Oesterreich 1977	1.4	14.83-85	21.82	100 1/2	101 1/2	6.89%	6.56%
6 1/2% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G)	13-1.9	19.74-83	19.73	99 1/2	100 1/2	6.51%	6.63%
7 1/2% Tauernkraftwerke 1968 (G)	12-1.8	12.74-83	—	101 1/2	102 1/2	6.87%	6.49%
9 1/2% Tauernautobahn 1974 (G)	1.7	1.7.81	—	104 1/2	105 1/2	9.04%	8.60%
8 1/2% Voest 1975	1.10	11.10.79-88	16.78	102 1/2	103 1/2	8.27%	8.07%
8 1/2% Voest 1973	1.6	16.81-85	—	105 1/2	105 1/2	8.07%	7.35%
6 1/2% Voest 1977	1.6	16.84-89	—	98 1/2	99 1/2	6.81%	6.87%
7 1/2% Wien 1968	1.8-1.12	16.74-83	16.73	100 1/2	100 1/2	6.97%	6.98%
8 1/2% Wien 1975	1.8	18.79-84	—	102 1/2	103 1/2	8.02%	7.55%
U.S.\$ BONDS							
6% Rep. Austria 1964	31.1-31.7	31.1.71-84	31.70	97 1/2	98	6.14%	6.69%
6 1/2% Rep. Austria 1967	15.3-15.9	15.3.72-82	15.3.71	97 1/2	98	6.91%	7.81%
8 1/2% Rep. Austria 1976	15.8	15.8.78-90	15.8.77	97 1/2	97 1/2	8.99%	9.13%
6 1/2% Aust. Electricity 1966 (G)	1.1-1.7	1.7.70-86	1.7.69	98 1/2	99	6.72%	6.98%
6 1/2% Aust. Electricity 1967 (G)	1.4-1.10	11.10.71-82	11.10.70	98 1/2	99	6.84%	7.34%
5 1/2% Alpine Montan 1965 (G)	15.6	15.6.72-85	15.6.71	93 1/2	93 1/2	6.15%	7.12%
8 1/2% Tauernautobahn 1977 (G)	15.3	15.3.83-87	15.3.82	92 1/2	92 1/2	8.92%	9.66%
6 1/2% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1966	31.10	31.10.70-85	31.10.69	92 1/2	93 1/2	6.99%	7.94%
6 1/2% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1966	31.7	31.7.70-85	13.7.69	93 1/2	94 1/2	7.16%	7.97%
6 1/2% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1967	31.1	31.1.73-82	31.1.72	97 1/2	98 1/2	6.89%	7.64%
6 1/2% Transalpine Fin. Hldg. 1967	30.4	30.4.74-83	30.4.73	96 1/2	97 1/2	6.98%	7.76%
7 1/2% Trans-Austria Gasline 1973	15.1	15.1.77-88	15.1.76	85 1/2	86 1/2	8.70%	9.94%
DOMESTIC ISSUES							
8% Investitionsanleihe 1973/II/B	3.7	3.7.76-81 (102)	—	101 1/2	102	7.87%	8.11%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1974/II/B	23.10	22.10.75-82	—	100	100 1/2	8.47%	8.38%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1975/III/B	28.10	28.10.76-84 (103)	—	101 1/2	102 1/2	8.35%	8.63%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1975/S/III U.I.V.	27.11	27.11.79-85	—	102 1/2	103 1/2	8.24%	8.33%
8 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1976/S	20.2	20.2.81-86 (104)	—	102 1/2	102 1/2	8.29%	8.48%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1976/S/II	2.7	2.7.83-86	—	98 1/2	99	8.08%	8.19%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1977/S/III/B	2.6	2.6.82-87	—	98 1/2	99 1/2	8.08%	8.18%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1977/II/B	15.9	15.9.82-86	—	98 1/2	99 1/2	8.08%	8.17%
8% Investitionsanleihe 1978/II/C	7.6	7.6.86	—	98 1/2	99 1/2	8.08%	8.19%
7 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1978/5/C	3.10	3.1.10.86	—	97 1/2	97 1/2	7.96%	8.25%
7 1/2% Investitionsanleihe 1979-87/II	13.10	13.10.87	—	95	96	7.59%	8.05%
3% Energieanleihe 1978/C	1.3	1.3.86	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	8.05%	8.21%
8 1/2% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1975/B	29.4	29.4.76-83	—	100	100 1/2	8.47%	8.33%
8 1/2% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1977/B	10.5	10.5.82-87	—	98 1/2	99 1/2	8.09%	8.20%
8 1/2% Wiener Stadtanleihe 1978/I/C	3.5	3.5.86	—	98 1/2	99 1/2	8.09%	8.21%
8% Europaeische Investitionsbank 1976	20.10	20.10.80-86 (100.5)	—	98 1/2	99	8.11%	8.30%
7 1/2% Europaesische Investitionsbank 1978	22.12	22.12.86 (100.5)	—	96 1/2	97 1/2	7.98%	8.27%
8% Inter-Am. Entwicklungsbank 1978	17.12	17.12.81-86	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	8.12%	8.28%
8% Tag Finco Anleihe 1976	19.11	19.11.81-86 (100)	—	98 1/2	98 1/2	8.13%	8.30%
8% Sparkassenanleihe 1977/S/B	26.7	26.7.80-83	—	99 1/2	100	8.02%	8.12%

(R) Purchase for redemption purposes by issuer possible. The bonds so purchased may be used for repayment according to plan. (...) Repayment at a premium. (G) Government Guarantee. (S) Local Government Guarantee. Yield calculations are based on the middle price.

Market Maker in Austrian Farmbonds

Market M.
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borrower's private D-Mark place-
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INCORPORATING BAYERISCHE STAATSBANK AG

31st JULY 1979

WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Quotations and Yields

Advertisement

Issue	Middle Price	Current Yield	Life*	Yield to Maturity*	Repayment by lot or at par	Issue	Middle Price	Current Yield	Life*	Yield to Maturity*	Repayment by lot or at par						
5% ADELA 76/83	101.50	7.87	3.67	7.48	1. 4.83	8% Eurofins 76/83	106.00	7.55	3.50	6.03	1. 2.83	64% Nordic Inv. Bank 79/86	95.75	6.53	6.42	7.08	1. 1.88
7% ADELA 77/82	99.75	7.27	2.97	7.34	1. 6.83	8% Eurofins 77/83	97.25	6.94	6.43	7.37	1. 2.83	65% Norges Komm. Bank 70/85 (G)	108.00	7.27	6.23	7.07	1. 1.80
7% AEG 68/73	99.00	7.07	3.03	7.09	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	66% Norges Komm. Bank 75/80 (G)	101.50	7.56	6.92	7.39	1. 1.80
7% AEG 68/73	99.25	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	67% Norges Komm. Bank 75/81 (G)	102.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	68% Norges Komm. Bank 77/83 (G)	100.00	7.03	9.67	6.95	1. 10.50
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	69% Norges Komm. Bank 78/83 (G)	102.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	70% Norges Komm. Bank 79/83 (G)	103.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	71% Norges Komm. Bank 80/83 (G)	104.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	72% Norges Komm. Bank 81/83 (G)	104.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	73% Norges Komm. Bank 82/83 (G)	105.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	74% Norges Komm. Bank 83/83 (G)	105.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	75% Norges Komm. Bank 84/83 (G)	106.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	76% Norges Komm. Bank 85/83 (G)	106.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	77% Norges Komm. Bank 86/83 (G)	107.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	78% Norges Komm. Bank 87/83 (G)	107.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	79% Norges Komm. Bank 88/83 (G)	108.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	80% Norges Komm. Bank 89/83 (G)	108.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	81% Norges Komm. Bank 90/83 (G)	109.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	82% Norges Komm. Bank 91/83 (G)	109.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	83% Norges Komm. Bank 92/83 (G)	110.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	84% Norges Komm. Bank 93/83 (G)	110.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	85% Norges Komm. Bank 94/83 (G)	111.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	86% Norges Komm. Bank 95/83 (G)	111.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	87% Norges Komm. Bank 96/83 (G)	112.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	88% Norges Komm. Bank 97/83 (G)	112.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	89% Norges Komm. Bank 98/83 (G)	113.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	90% Norges Komm. Bank 99/83 (G)	113.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	91% Norges Komm. Bank 00/83 (G)	114.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	92% Norges Komm. Bank 01/83 (G)	114.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	93% Norges Komm. Bank 02/83 (G)	115.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	94% Norges Komm. Bank 03/83 (G)	115.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	95% Norges Komm. Bank 04/83 (G)	116.00	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.50	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	96% Norges Komm. Bank 05/83 (G)	116.50	6.76	1.75	4.85	1. 1.81
7% AEG 68/73	99.75	7.07	3.03	7.13	1. 8.82	8% Eurofins 78/83	93.00	6.95	6.50	7.47	1. 1.83	97% Norges Komm. Bank 06/83 (G)	117.00				

How Trinity encourages entrepreneurs

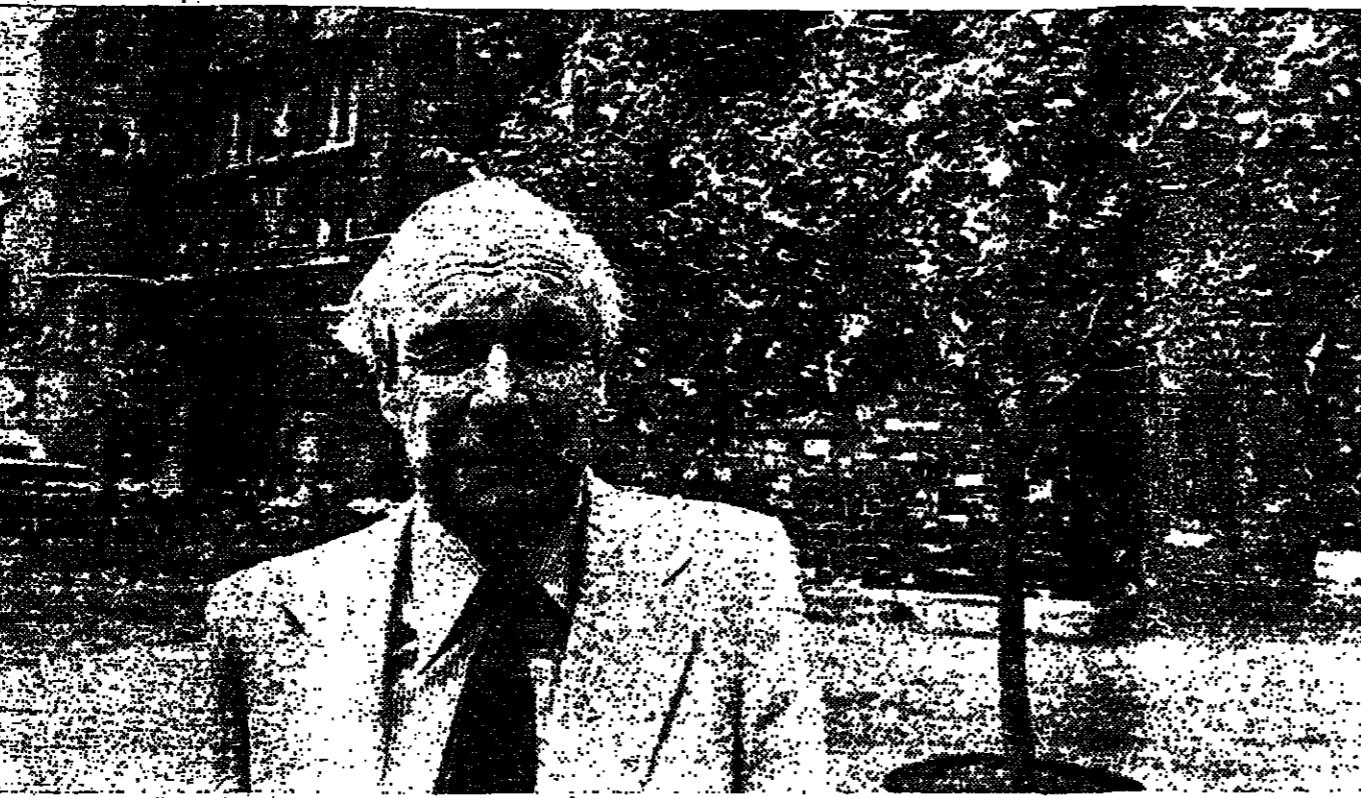
SCIENCE IS great but business is greater," said Prince Charles at Trinity College, Cambridge, the other day. And if they can be combined, it is surely a good thing, he told a group of business and PR people, among them at least four Nobel laureates in science. One was Sir Alan Hodgkin, master of Trinity's professor of physiology at Cambridge, and an enthusiastic advocate of closer links between industry and science.

Trinity College has brought science and business together as a commercial investment, in an industrial estate on the outskirts of Cambridge of a kind that is common in the U.S. but novel to Britain. The college is landlord of the Cambridge Science Park, where 15 small companies—*at least three of which have been spawned by Cambridge University*—are clustered.

Their activities include computer-controlled laser systems, powerful new instruments for biologists, veterinary vaccines, a "supermarket" for rare metals no-one else can supply. The terms of their tenancy stipulate that these activities shall continue to need close relations between the "shop-floor" and scientists. Once a product becomes a matter of routine manufacture, the tenant is honour-bound to take it elsewhere.

Prince Charles had dropped in by helicopter to open the new film laboratories of the latest and largest tenants, Cambridge Consultants, a contract research and engineering company founded in 1960 by a Trinity man. To one tenant's claim that his "widget" was way ahead of the Americans, the Prince replied that it was the third time he'd heard the claim at the Cambridge Science Park that morning.

Cambridge Consultants was founded (with £400) in the



Sir Alan Hodgkin, Master of Trinity College Cambridge, pictured outside Trinity College with the Great Gate in background.

simple premise of putting "the brains of Cambridge University at the disposal of the problems of British industry." Trinity's industrial estate has precisely the same objective—though not all its tenants are British-owned companies, says Dr. John Bradfield sadly.

Dr. Bradfield, the man behind the science park, is Trinity's ebullient senior bursar, responsible for the college's endowment income of about £2m gross a year. Trinity is reputed to be Cambridge's richest college. But the income is needed to keep buildings which date from the thirteenth century in good repair. £650,000 last year, he says, was spent on

major task of re-roofing—to pay for the college's 20 research fellows and research students, and to help subsidise Cambridge's newer colleges through the university's private tax scheme.

"So we don't try to be clever," says Dr. Bradfield. His investments are spread roughly one-third each in farming, urban property and securities. But Trinity's investment manager has never severed his own connections with science. He came to Trinity as a scholarship student, graduated in botany, then worked at the Cavendish Laboratory with the electron microscope, one of the most potent research tools the

botanists have ever found.

For the past 20 years, since he left the Cavendish Laboratory to become Trinity's business manager, he has found no time for botany beyond his hobby of planting trees. But the job has kindled an immense enthusiasm for helping British industry that almost transcends his love of Trinity.

His opportunity came in the shape of a report prepared for the university in 1969, when a committee under the chairmanship of Professor Sir Nevill Mott reported on university relationships with industry. It argued that Cambridge has a special role to play in fostering science-based industries and

entrepreneurs. It offered two good reasons that it probably has "the largest concentration of physical, technological, biological, medical and agricultural research laboratories in any university in this country"; and that if one added Government-funded laboratories in and around Cambridge, it amounts to "the largest non-industrial concentration in the country."

But it was widely believed,

the committee found, that new industries and industrial research were not welcome either to the university or to local authorities. The university accepted the Mott report. Dr. Bradfield, "impressed by the

importance of the idea," picked up the challenge in a matter of months.

Trinity's fondness for science dates from the days when Isaac Newton, working alongside the Great Gate of the college, revolutionised thinking about the behaviour of light. On the edge of town, Trinity possessed 140 acres of derelict land, mostly a gift from the Throne in 1443. It had been requisitioned as a marshalling yard for tanks in the war and was overgrown with hawthorn scrub.

Two years after the Mott report, Trinity had planning permission to develop the first 14 acres for the use of science-based industry. Its first tenant, Laser-Scan Laboratories—the brainchild of two Cavendish Laboratory professors and their student who had been developing computer-controlled lasers

arrived in 1973.

Today Laser-Scan is a business employing 56 with a turnover exceeding £1m this year. At the Cambridge Science Park it already has two buildings and is seeking a third. Its expertise lies in the way it can persuade a computer to steer a beam-of-light from a laser to read a photograph or a map for specific details of interest.

The only Rolls-Royce in the park is owned by Mrs. Doris Wheatley, an archaeologist teaching at the university until, she claims, she "met a man in a pub" who persuaded her to go into business. Her business, Cambridge Communication, specialises in translating complex documents into readily assimilated literature—company statements into literature for shareholders, for instance.

The latest tenant, Cambridge Consultants, has built its own laboratories rather than rent a building. One of its most promising lines of development is the technology of ink-jet

printing. This is a very fast method of printing by using a stream of minuscule droplets of ink steered by a computer—much as it steers a stream of electrons to paint a picture on a TV-type screen. Sound waves shatter the fine jet of ink into a uniform stream of charged droplets, small enough to respond quickly to a fast-changing electric field.

The beauty of ink-jet printing lies both in its speed as a computer-driven printer and in the fact that it will print on virtually any surface, because nothing but ink droplets touches the surface. Cambridge Consultants offers to tailor the technology to a customer's requirements—anything from fine designs on fabrics to drawing complex profiles by computer on large metal plates destined for the hulls of ships or aircraft.

Landscaping

Between them the 13 tenants employ about 150 full-time, 45 per cent of whom are scientists. Trinity has invested about £1.5m of its own money in buildings, roads, services and landscaping.

At a ratio of 6:1 of land to buildings, the rent cannot be cheap, says Bidwells of Cambridge, the college's agents. It yields about £150,000 a year on Trinity's investment and "earns its keep," confirms Dr. Bradfield.

Next month Bidwells hopes to clinch a deal which will raise employment at the park to 450. Napp, a privately-owned U.S. pharmaceutical company, plans to consolidate its scattered UK facilities in a single headquarters and research laboratory on the site. The company, whose primary claim to fame is an iodine disinfectant which doesn't sting, has plans to build its own elegant, glass-clad build-

ing, doubling the area of landscaped site.

Another idea Bidwells is exploring is the building of half a dozen "starter units" of only 1,300 sq ft. The idea is that entrepreneurs working at present in garages, garden sheds or wherever—as some of their present tenants began—might thus be tempted to take the next step towards full-scale industrial premises.

Dr. Bradfield suggests that these units could also make ideal "listening posts" for big companies wanting to keep an ear to the ground for new ideas in Cambridge. Already there is one "ear" in Cambridge, in the shape of Mr. Neil Cross, area manager for the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC), which has already backed three of Trinity's tenants, including Laser-Scan and Cambridge Communications. This unit also offers a sympathetic ear to its clients who get into problems with money.

Does the Cambridge Science Park work—in the sense of being a community of similar interests working closely with university laboratories? "When I find them scrapping each other's equipment, then I'll know we're winning," Dr. Bradfield says. But he points proudly to the £25,000 given by Laser-Scan to finance a five-year research fellowship at the Cavendish—exactly the sort of mutual benefit scheme one hoped for.

His confidence comes from the proliferation of science parks of this kind in North America, where the U.S. alone has about 80, averaging 650 acres in area. One, the Research Triangle in North Carolina, is as big as the whole of Cambridge and has five universities associated with it. "I know it's good. Our fellows are always off to it in the long vacation."

Letters to the Editor

Commodity centre

From Mr. D. Gordon.

Sir—Is the City to be the last place in Britain to realise that Mrs. Thatcher's world is different? I have been reading with growing amazement the pre-Thatcher era letters from serious people asking the Government to provide for towards the cost of housing international commodity bureaux. An object of such largesse, as spelt out by your commodity expert in Lombard (August 8), is to promote invisible exports.

"Invisibles" are a good thing, and the City deserves its self-administered pat on the back for generating exports of them. But the benefit of such invisible earnings are not themselves invisible. They get translated into the profits of enterprises in the City, such as Barclays' Bank (profits £450m in the past 12 months) which is spearheading the campaign for some of the taxpayers' money being cut off even from those arts that generate invisible tourist earnings. To those outside the City, it is absurd to see Barclays holding out the begging bowl in this way.

If the City thinks a commodity centre is good for the City, then it should take the long-term view and itself pay the whole cost of one.

David Gordon.

Flat 39,

Stafford Court,

Kensington High Street, W8.

Change to metric

From the Chairman C. Whiteley, Estates.

Sir—I would take issue with Mr. Jenkins' view (July 27) that the time for this country to go metric is five years after the Americans. It should be remembered that as long ago as 1963 more than half our exports were taken by metric countries, and at that time the technologically-based industries put the case to the Government for the use of metric weights and measures in UK.

The position now is that even if we exclude the U.S. (which is planning its own metric conversion) over 90 per cent of our exports go to countries which have always been metric or which are in an advanced state of change.

British industry is now absorbing some frighteningly high added costs but very few firms have faced up to this and attempted to quantify the extra burden of such items as the dual stocking of tools, raw material, consumables, finished goods and sales literature plus the cost of dual dimensioning by design offices, the cost of conversion of incoming specifications by estimators and the cost of scrap and errors on the shop floor due to the use of both metric and Imperial drawings on machinery still predominantly Imperial. Evidence is becoming available which shows these added costs to be as high as 15 per cent which under other circumstances could be used to increase profits or wages or to reduce prices.

There is also evidence to show

issues which should also be exploited.

Among those who are professionally engaged in construction, the preponderant opinion is that the regulations are too cumbersome, too slow, are administered with excessive attention to minutiae and are therefore no longer cost effective.

A total review is required and the need for this should not be confused by the introduction of charges. It would be all too easy for local authorities to persuade themselves that the payments received are a useful form of revenue and there would be correspondingly less pressure to review the basis of the system and means which improve its effectiveness.

Some time ago you quoted the high and rising cost to the American chemical industry, through complying with U.S. safety standards (June 20). Other studies have been carried out, particularly in the U.S., to evaluate the economic effects of building regulations. Something of that nature is long overdue here. Some of the regulations produced over the

past few years have never been satisfactorily justified on true or social cost grounds and even some of their other reputed benefits are at best unproven.

A thorough analysis would show that a simpler and far more effective system could be arrived at, using less than the present staff and certainly requiring less than the present overheads created for users in endeavouring to comply. Bearing in mind that all affect the end product, i.e. the cost of building, this surely is where Government pressure is primarily needed even if fees are allowed in the meantime. Similar past recommendations have been taken up with rather less enthusiasm by the Department of the Environment.

Fees might also help to achieve greater efficiency if they only become payable where a local authority has dealt with the application within the statutory period, and in case of rejection, given fully documented reasons.

Stefan B. Tietz,
S. B. Tietz and Partners,
10-14, Macklin Street, WC2.

Planning and building

From Mr. S. Tietz.

Sir—The Government is apparently considering the introduction of fees payable to local authorities for considering planning and building regulation applications. Consent under building regulations already attracts a fee in the inner London area and the idea is neither revolutionary nor necessarily unattractive. There are, however, more fundamental

if these were brewed in the UK, and if the theme of the commercial is likely to suggest an imported product, the authority requires the advertiser to include the information in the commercial. Such information, usually in the form of superimposed words such as "Brewed in the UK under licence," must be in bold type and held sufficiently long for the information to be clearly seen by the viewers (in the case of radio advertisements, the words must be spoken.)

As to toothpastes containing fluoride, this subject has not only been carefully considered by the advertising advisory committee, but by the British Dental Association. Before any claim for a toothpaste is accepted for broadcasting, it is seen not only by the lay staff, but must meet exacting standards required by a senior member of the dental profession, appointed by the authority to its medical advisory panel.

No advertisement for a medical or other product which includes claims as to the therapeutic or prophylactic effects of the product may be broadcast on television or radio without first being referred to a member of the panel. This is required by a provision of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act 1973. The tests referred to in the toothpaste commercials are the British clinical trials into fluoride toothpastes, in which the dental health committee of the British Dental Association was involved and during which information and advice were exchanged between the manufacturers and the association regarding the scope and methodology of the proposed trials. This was to enable official cognisance to be given to the results of the trials and enable them to be evaluated on a comparable basis. The "up to 30 per cent" claim stems from the findings accepted by the BDA and the authority's dental consultant that children who used toothpaste containing a recommended amount of fluoride showed an average of 30.3 per cent fewer decayed, missing or filled surfaces on teeth which grew through the

gums during the three-year test period than did children using a non-fluoride paste. Allowing for the shortness of TV commercials, the claim does not turn out to be meaningless. We are concerned that advertisers do not overclaim and in these cases we always require reference to the need for regular brushing.

I would agree with Chris Dunkley that it is unethical deliberately to take off the voice of a well-known personality to mislead viewers and we would not intentionally allow it. I do not know to which commercial he is referring. Could it be the latest for Carlsberg Special Brew? But that is the voice of Orson Wells.

Nothing is perfect in an imperfect world and there will always be room for argument about individual commercials. With something like 7,000 new TV commercials and an equal number of radio commercials made every year, there will be those which are loved and those which are disliked. The authority is concerned to achieve high standards of broadcast advertising and its advertising control machinery is designed to achieve that result.

H. G. Theobalds,
Independent Broadcasting
Authority.
7 Brompton Road, SW3.

That's why The Bank of Boston in London offers a surprising depth of service to international customers—including an active foreign exchange dealing department and the facilitating of investments in the U.S.

Bank of Boston House, 5 Cheapside, EC2.

If banking is a service business, then it should be on service that you judge a bank.

We've spent 57 years in the City, building an organisation to cater for the toughest judge of all: the financial professional.

That's why The Bank of Boston in London offers a surprising depth of service to international customers—including an active foreign exchange dealing department and the facilitating of investments in the U.S.

Why we have unusually good representation in 40 countries.

Why our two hundred people in London aim at the highest standards if you give the best service, you have the best bank.

And it works.

We are one of the top ten US international banks, and a major force in correspondent banking.

And six out of the top ten companies in the prestigious "The Times One Thousand" are our customers.

Do you put a premium on service too? We look forward to meeting you.



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PLANT & MACHINERY SALES

Description	Telephone
1) ROLLING MILLS	
20in x 30in x 350 h.p. Two High Reversing Mill.	
5in x 12in x 10in wide variable speed Four High Mill.	
3.5in x 8in x 9in wide variable speed Four High Mill.	
10in x 16in wide fixed speed Two High Mill.	
10in x 16in wide fixed speed Two High Mill.	
6in x 16in x 20in wide Four High Mill.	
2) CUT/LENGTH LINE 1,000 mm x 2 mm.	
3) CUT/LENGTH LINE 750 mm x 3 mm.	
4) CUT/LENGTH LINE 400 mm x 3 mm.	
5) WIRE FLATTENING AND NARROW STRIP ROLLING MILL.	
two stand by r.w.f. 10in x 8in rolls.	
6) SLITTING LINE 920 mm x 10 ton coil by Cam.	
7) SLITTING LINE 300 mm x 1 ton coil by Cam.	
8) SLITTING MACHINES 36" and 48" by Weybridge.	
9) 350 h.p. REVERSING MILL, 20in x 30in rolls. Farmer Norton.	
10) PLATE SHEAR 4ft x 1in Cincinnati.	
11) GUILLOTINE 8ft x 0.125in Pearson.	
12) No. 1 FICEP SCRAP SHEAR. 75 x 35 mm bar.	
13) SHEET LEVELLING ROLLS, 920, 1,150 and 1,850 mm wide.	
14) HYDRAULIC SCRAP BALING PRESS. Fielding & Platt.	
15) FORGING HAMMER 3 cwt. slide-type. Massey.	
16) VACUUM FURNACE 100 kw. Herdickerhoff.	
17) AUTOMATED COLD SAW, non ferrous Noble & Lund.	
18) WIRE DRAWING MACHINE 8 BLOCK (16in). Arboga.	
19) WIREDRAWING MACHINE 6 BLOCK (22in). Marshall Richards.	
20) 1972 WIRE STRAIGHTEN AND CUT-TO-LENGTH MACHINE.	
Max. capacity 10 mm dia. m.s.	
21) HORIZONTAL DRAW BLOCK 36in. Farmer Norton.	
22) BAR & TUBE REELING MACHINE (2in). Platt.	
23) WIRE DRAWING MACHINE 9 DIE cone type. Unic.	
24) WIRE DRAWING MACHINE 15 DIE cone type. Marshall Richards.	
25) COMPLETE BICYCLE RIM MANUFACTURING PLANT for disposal. capacity 300 rims per hour.	

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CINCINNATI CENTRELESS GRINDER. Excellent
1500 TON CLEARING D A PRESS Bed 180" x 96"
20 TON SCHULER HIGH SPEED PRESS, 200 s.p.m.
LUMSDEN GRINDER 84" x 24" magnetic chuck
FISCHER COPY LATHE TYPE 18/150
NATIONAL COLD HEADERS 1" x 1" dia. recon.
BARBER & COLMAN 16-16 HOBBER, as new
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Tel: 01-928 3131 - Telex: 261771

A quiet but interesting market in Holland

BY JOHN MAKINSON

THE Dutch East India Company listed its shares on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange in the early 17th century and paid dividends in peppercorns. A hundred years ago the exchange was financing railroads in the U.S. It has retained its international flavour but the recent history has been less glorious. The number of listed domestic shares has halved over the last five years. Turnover of shares and bonds is falling and the issue market for equities is in the doldrums.

The dull performance of Amsterdam's bourse may have led U.K. investors, now freed of the dollar premium, to overlook it. The Capital International Index ended last year virtually unchanged from the opening, and this year's slightly firmer trend is mostly attributable to the rise and rise of Royal Dutch.

Yet by the middle of 1978 the average price/earnings ratio on the Amsterdam exchange was 5.1, the lowest of any major bourse, and the average yield of 6.8 per cent was the most generous. For guilder bonds, the real yield of around four per cent is the highest ever in Holland. Amsterdam may be quiet but it doesn't look unattractive.

Appealing

The structure of the market itself should appeal to the British investor. The banks, while acting as brokers, do not have the stranglehold on the market that their German counterparts enjoy. The bourse may be modest by London's standards, but there is a broad spread of investors, with private individuals probably holding around half the listed shares.

Commissions are lower than on other European exchanges (and foreigners obtain a 25 per cent discount), while there is no local withholding tax to be paid, so long as equity dividends are repatriated. The dealing practices will be familiar to London fund managers. The broking function is shared by banks and professional stockbrokers, while the work of the jobber is done by *hockelieden*, door-traders specialising in a particular security.

British investors will be guaranteed a warm welcome in

DUTCH STOCKS

TURNOVER — the Stock Exchange publishes figures for transactions passing through its clearing system, which accounts for almost all trading. In 1978, share turnover was £4.5bn in shares and £4.9bn in public bonds. Turnover has been slightly slower so far this year.

DEALING — Each listed security is traded at one of the 82 *hoecken* (pitches) on the exchange floor through *hockelieden* (specialists). Internationals and leading domestic shares are traded on a continuous basis, while for most domestic equities there

MARKET VALUATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC STOCKS

(July 31)		P/e*	Yield*
Capitalisation (Guilder m)	Price		
Royal Dutch	19,433	144.5	4.4
Unilever	4,161	129.6	6.2
ABN	1,961	338	4.5
Heineken	948	82	8
Elsevier	325	271	7.6
Gist-Brocades	178	41.8	8.3

* P/e and yield are historic.

Holland. Commissions are so low that the local banks claim to be losing money on their securities business with local clients. Trading major shares with foreign clients, however, can deal on a more remunerative basis.

Dutch banks will probably be keen to recommend guilder bonds as listed shares. Both kinds of security are traded in the same way and the bonds are currently offering an average yield of almost 9 per cent or about two points more than the average equity.

There is unlikely to be any dramatic fall in bond yields as on other European exchanges (and foreigners obtain a 25 per cent discount), while there is no local withholding tax to be paid, so long as equity dividends are repatriated. The dealing practices will be familiar to London fund managers. The broking function is shared by banks and professional stockbrokers, while the work of the jobber is done by *hockelieden*, door-traders specialising in a particular security.

British investors will be guaranteed a warm welcome in

values — a higher proportion than on any other leading bourse.

Moreover, there are more foreign shares listed than domestic shares and the degree of foreign trading involvement is high.

The bulk of turnover on the exchange is in the international stocks (Royal Dutch, Philips, Unilever, Akzo and Hoogovens) and in a plethora of mutual funds on which UK investors must still pay the premium.

There has been some British enthusiasm for internationals since exchange controls were relaxed, primarily in Royal Dutch and Unilever where arbitrage profits were to be made on switching from the British to the Dutch company. The currency diversification may be attractive to some fund managers, while pessimists among them could be tempted to hedge on a reintroduction of the premium.

Expansion

These international shares can, however, be bought and sold on other leading bourses, so the fund manager will probably need a fatter carrot to bring him to Amsterdam.

Among the local stocks, the financial sector has traditionally been the star performer. The local ANP/CBS index, based on 1970, showed the banks at 267 and insurance companies at 167 last Monday. The index for internationals was 82 and, for local industrials, a depressing 76.

The average price/earnings ratio for Dutch banks is about half that of their German competitors (ABN is on about 2.5 and Deutsche on over nine) and, though they do not have the attractive equity investments of the German houses, they are competing on the same international markets under the same conditions.

The major insurance companies are currently expanding abroad in a big way and analysts in Amsterdam believe this should enhance their earnings potential. Nationale Nederlanden, which is buying a U.S. insurance group, trades on an earnings multiple of around six, compared with nine for Germany's Allianz.

Amsterdam also offers the UK investor exposure in the airline.

EUROPEAN BOURSES



AMSTERDAM

sector, through KLM. The share price is volatile but, until British Airways is offered to the public, there is nothing comparable in London.

The industrial sector may look less tempting to the fund manager with a long memory. British investors had their fingers badly burnt on many local stocks during 1975 and 1976 and Dutch bankers fear they may take a once bitten, twice shy approach.

Bad memories are not the only drawback in trading domestic Dutch stocks. Marketability is limited, which can be a bugbear at times of foreign exchange volatility, and the Dutch themselves claim to be fully invested in many local shares, implying that any bullish impetus must come from abroad. This appears paradoxical given the liquidity of Dutch institutions and the amount of money swishing around on short-term deposit. Local insurance companies, for instance, have a relatively low equity portfolio and have allocated much of the short-term money to fixed-interest investments.

The same handicaps apply to an even greater extent on the sizeable market in unlisted shares, which is supervised by two leading Dutch brokers and Kredietbank. This has generally outperformed the bourse but it has a high casualty rate and trading can be very thin. Dutch bankers and fund managers often appear unenthusiastic about their own domestic share market. There is talk of freeing the commission structure to encourage investment in foreign stocks in Amsterdam and one manager admitted to a policy of switching more of his portfolio to Wall Street. The tulips appear redder on the other side. British investors have been sniffing around Amsterdam to see what is available but there has so far been little buying, except in the leading internationals.

The Amsterdam Exchange shows little sign of taking fire and the phlegmatic Dutch give the impression that they would find it vaguely embarrassing if it did. But, for the selective British investor, it offers more than peppercorns.

Plan with electricity for real efficiency

As Engineering Services Manager of Huddersfield-based Brook Motors Limited (part of the Hawker Siddeley Group), Jack Goodman has to turn company plans into positive results. He's pictured here beside Yorkshire Electricity Board's Ian Flint, with an electric furnace ready for installation in their new diecasting department.

The launchpad for a ten-year plan to streamline production of their range of electric motors, the Brook new diecasting plant will be all-electric. Jack Goodman explains: "After discussions with our Electricity Board we adopted one electric melting furnace on trial. Energy cost comparisons quickly established its advantages — and it gave us consistently better quality castings too". So pleased is the company with results, that they now plan to go electric in their new rotor casting shop pictured here.

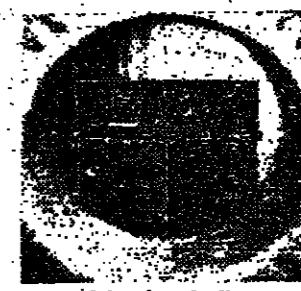
They also investigated, and are now using, electric die pre-heaters. Indeed, from the battery-powered lift trucks providing smooth, efficient materials handling, to spark erosion machines which form their tools with unmatched precision, electricity is central to Brook manufacturing strategy.

It's an investment which is paying off for management and operatives alike — "Electricity has given us better product quality and a better environment... it's much cleaner and easier to control".

To find out how electricity can increase your company's efficiency and profitability, contact an Industrial Sales Engineer at your Electricity Board.



Significant fuel cost savings have been established with electric melting of aluminium.



One of the electric die pre-heaters at Brook Motors.

INVEST ELECTRIC

The Electricity Council, England and Wales. 221274

دعا من الأصل

INSURANCE

APPOINTMENTS

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Drinking and driving law reform overdue

BY OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE TRANSPORT and Road Research Laboratory has just issued its Supplementary Report 441, entitled *A Review of Drinking and Drug Taking in Road Accidents in Great Britain*, concludes that about one road fatality in five results from drinking in excess of the legal limit.

The report sets out the most-to-date evidence: 35 per cent car and vehicle drivers, and 16 per cent of motorcyclists have been found on post-mortem examination to have had more than the legal 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. Moreover, these percentages rise to an astonishing 40 per cent and 56 per cent respectively, on Friday and Saturday nights. Drivers who have been drinking often carry passengers, and 24 per cent of passengers killed in car and road accidents are shown to have excess alcohol.

Quite clearly our drinking and driving laws are long overdue for reform. We are all entitled to ask our MPs and the Ministry of Transport why the recommendations in the Blennerhasset Report, tabled in 1976, so long been ignored. It not only that there could have been a substantial reduction in the 1,500 or so deaths that are directly due to drinking and driving. There are some tens of thousands of injuries that could be avoided as well.

In the seven years after the substantial reform of the deposit rule which is reckoned at about 5,000 deaths and 40,000 injuries were avoided, the same kind of consequence could flow from early legislation in the lines recommended three years ago by the Blennerhasset committee. There would be a massive reduction in accidents in the number and cost of injury compensation claims both for the State and to motor insurers. There would also be considerably less pressure for motor premium rating increases. It seems that the Government, it wishes, has the opportunity to bring the coming Parliamentary session to grapple with this drinking-driving problem.

On these matters legislation is long overdue.

WALL STREET

NEW YORK

	1978		1979		Aug.		1978		1979		Aug.		1978		1979		Aug.	
	High	Low	Stock	Aug.	10	High	Low	Stock	Aug.	10	High	Low	Stock	Aug.	10	High	Low	
High	464	316	Control Data	456	274	22	59	372	31	141	141	141	Revere	521	31	141	141	
Low	464	463	Cooper Indus.	59	771	671	59	241	59	241	59	241	Reynolds Metals	542	261	141	141	
Stock	18	18	Corning Glass	515	524	281	315	193	193	193	193	193	Rich St. Merrill	635	30	193	193	
Aug.	10	10	CPIC Internat'l	515	495	238	315	193	193	193	193	193	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1978	3018	21	Crane Oil & Gas	1676	215	193	215	193	193	193	193	193	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1979	3565	3565	Actra Life & Ga.	3413	3554	243	3554	2043	2043	2043	2043	2043	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1980	2323	2323	Al Products	343	311	31	311	214	214	214	214	214	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1981	3434	3434	Alcoa Aluminum	3204	324	324	324	285	285	285	285	285	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1982	3211	3211	Alcoa	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1983	1578	1578	Allegany Ludlum	2272	202	202	202	164	164	164	164	164	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1984	1518	1518	Allegany Power	1757	202	202	202	164	164	164	164	164	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1985	2812	2812	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1986	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1987	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1988	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1989	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1990	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1991	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
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1993	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1994	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
1995	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
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2001	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2002	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2003	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2004	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2005	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2006	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2007	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2008	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2009	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2010	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2011	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2012	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2013	2243	2243	Allied Chemical	875	453	453	453	394	394	394	394	394	Rohm & Haas	485	21	193	193	
2014	2243	2243</																

BY FRANCIS GHILES

INTERNATIONAL BONDS

Inflation figures call the tune

THE EUROBOND market decided to turn a blind eye on the so-called "Volcker" rally which developed in the New York market last week. This is the second time since early July that a rally in New York bond prices has failed to spark a similar reaction on this side of the Atlantic. The cool reaction of the Eurobond market turned out to be correct last month, and it could well be the same this time.

Apart from the appointment of Mr. Paul Volcker very few encouraging events have occurred in the past three weeks. The 1.1 per cent increase in the U.S. wholesale price index for July is certainly not counted among them. The U.S. currency weakened after the publication of these figures, thus vindicating the Eurobond market view that until the new chairman of the Federal Reserve decides to show his hand, there is little point in trying to talk investors into purchasing dollar paper.

Many bankers in London hope that Volcker will choose to show his hand at the meeting of the Open Market Committee

which takes place in Washington tomorrow. A signal through the Federal Funds market is widely expected to lead to a rise in prime U.S. bank rates later this week.

There was, however, a period of two days, at the beginning of last week, when a number of market participants believed that a short rally in dollar bond prices was in the making. At that time profit taking in the Deutsche-Mark sector was pushing the prices of D-Mark paper down.

The steady fall in yields offered to investors on D-Mark paper, whether foreign or domestic, combined with the news of the rising inflation rate in Germany, made many bankers, not least in Germany, wonder whether the recent strong demand for D-Mark bonds was about to fizzle out.

But, in the event, Germany once again emerged as the lesser of two evils. Prices of Deutsche-Mark bonds started moving up again last Thursday. By Friday, the Bundesbank, which earlier in the week had been buying paper to support

the domestic D-Mark bond market, was selling paper again (DM 130m on Friday alone), to meet investor demand.

This was all the more remarkable as the terms of the DM 1.6bn bond for the West German Government, announced last Friday, offered the investor a 7.57 per cent yield for 10 years, the lowest yield on such maturity paper in more than four months. This bond met with a warm reception.

In the foreign D-Mark sector, prices moved up with the domestic market. A DM 400m issue for the World Bank offered the investor a 7 per cent yield for six years, again the lowest in more than four months for paper of this maturity.

This was the second private placement in D-Marks for this borrower in less than 10 days. The earlier issue offered investors a yield of 7.21 per cent. It brings the new volume of D-Mark paper issued over the past three weeks to DM 1bn.

Unlike the D-Mark market, the Dutch guilder sector suffered no technical reaction at the beginning of the week. The Fl 800m government bond by the lead manager last

offered last week, which carries a coupon of 9 per cent with a split maturity of six and 15 years, was priced at 1004 because demand was strong.

Prices of foreign guilder bonds moved up over the week, pushing down the yield such paper offers to the investor to around 8.25 per cent on five-year paper, a 75 basis points drop in 10 days.

Trading activity was fairly strong in the Swiss franc foreign bond market where a steady stream of borrowers continues.

Prices of recent issues have been steady but some seasoned issues posted gains of up to 4 point.

The only sector of the dollar bond market where trading volume remains large is that of the Floating Rate Note allocation for the \$100m 31-year issue for Citicorp, which is being arranged by Credit Suisse First Boston, were very tight.

These notes, which bear quarterly interest at the average of the bid and offered rate for three month Eurodollar deposits, were quoted at 991-992 by the lead manager last

Friday. Credit Commercial de France is expected to launch a 12-year \$75m FRN for Williams and Glynn's Bank later this week. The borrower is expected to pay a coupon of 11 per cent over the six-month Libor rate.

In the straight dollar sector, trading was reduced to a trickle. The \$150m issue for Canada's Export Development Council met with a good response. It traded in the market at 981-981 at the end of the week.

The first Canadian dollar issue in more than two months was floated through Credit Suisse First Boston's C\$30m for Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien. The borrower is paying a coupon of 10 1/2 per cent for five years. The lead manager said that this issue was meeting with better demand than initially expected, but Ross and Partners (Securities) was quoting the issue at a discount of 21-14 per cent.

The next issue to be floated in the Kuwaiti Dinar sector is expected to be a KD10m 15 year issue for a very good quality borrower, the Caisse Centrale de Cooperation Economique.

U.S. MONEY MARKETS

The roll of Chrysler's distant thunder

IN A WEEK of corporate news dominated by the troubles of Chrysler Corporation, the affair has been merely distant thunder for the U.S. money markets. A steep mid-week climb in commercial paper rates owed virtually nothing to the semi-exclusion from the market of Chrysler Financial Corporation while the steadily growing weakness of the long-term Government and corporate bonds was far more a product of immediate worries about inflation, the money supply and the outlook for interest rates.

Nevertheless, the steep run up in commercial paper rates clearly tempted some doomsmen to blame the phenomenon to market jitters over Chrysler. Thirty- to 60-day finance company commercial paper opened the week at 9.95 per cent and dealer placed at 10.05 per cent. By Wednesday finance company yields had climbed to 10 1/2 per cent, and then eased to 10 1/4 per cent by the end of the week. Lagging slightly, dealer paper was still

10.4 per cent at the close on Friday.

Even without the name Chrysler painted on a darkening sky, these developments would have been worthy of attention because the commercial paper market is not normally so volatile. Although the pace of the rate increases surprised participants the fact did not, since commercial paper yields have not recently kept pace with increases in other short term money market instruments. "This was a Chrysler phenomenon," commented Mr. Pat Thackeray of AG Becker, a major Wall Street presence in the commercial paper market.

But the Chrysler crisis has touched the market purely because of the fact that Chrysler Financial Corporation, the company's financing subsidiary, had the prime grade rating on its commercial paper taken away by one rating agency on July 31.

As a result the cost of funds for this supplier of finance to

Chrysler dealers and their customers has risen significantly and forced the company to look elsewhere for its daily requirement of \$200m to \$300m.

and 1 per cent which compares with up to 1.75 per cent in 1974. Thus the weaker brethren in corporate America have suffered in this market far more

from the previous five days when the Treasury's quarterly refinancing had been handled with greater ease and lower yields than anticipated.

But the confidence had largely been eroded by the middle of the week and the mood became pessimistic on Thursday with the news of a 13.2 per cent annual rate of increase in the consumer price index.

By the end of the week long-term Treasuries were off by between 1/4 and 1/2 and corporates by 1 to 1 1/4. Thus the Treasury's 8 1/4 per cent bond of 2003 was down 1/2 to yield 8.87 and Ford Motor Company's 9.15 per cent debentures of 2004 were down 1/4 to yield 9.16 per cent.

The Federal Reserve Board's Open Market Committee meeting tomorrow will be watched with even more interest than usual because it will be the first under Mr. Paul Volcker, the Fed's new chairman. There were inconclusive signs on Friday that the Fed may already be moving its funds rate target from 10 1/2 per cent towards 10 1/4 per cent

Nevertheless, the spread between prime grade and ordinary commercial paper was at the end of the week only between 1/4 and 1/2 per cent.

The bond market, meanwhile, began the week with some reserves of confidence left over

These securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.

JULY, 1979

NEW ISSUE



Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.

(Mitsubishi Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha)

Kuwaiti Dinars 10,000,000

7 1/2 per cent. Guaranteed Notes due 1984

Unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed as to payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest by

The Mitsubishi Bank, Limited
(Kabushiki Kaisha Mitsubishi Ginko)

Issue price 99 1/2 per cent.

Kuwait Investment Company (S.A.K.)

Morgan Stanley International

Abu Dhabi Investment Company

Banque Nationale de Paris

Kleinwort, Benson (Middle East) E.C.

Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting & Investment Co. (S.A.K.)

Kuwait Pacific Finance Company Limited

Libyan Arab Foreign Bank Tripoli, Libya

The National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.

The National Commercial Bank (Saudi Arabia)

Nomura Europe N.V.

Yamaichi International (Europe) Limited

A. E. Ames & Co. Limited

Al Bahrain Arab African Bank (E.C.)

Algemene Bank Nederland N.V.

(Bahrain Branch)

Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V.

Arab African International Bank - Cairo

Arab Bank Investment Company Limited

B.A.I.L. (Middle East) Inc.

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait B.S.C. - Kuwait Branch

Bank of Helsinki Ltd.

The Bank of Tokyo (Holland) N.V.

Banque Arabe et Internationale d'Investissement (B.A.I.I.)

Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas

(Bahrain Offshore Branch)

Bayerische Vereinsbank International

Societe Anonyme

Bergen Bank

Blyth Eastman Dillon & Co. International Limited

Burgan Bank S.A.K. - Kuwait

Citicorp International Group

Den norske Creditbank

Financial Group of Kuwait K.S.C.

Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank AG

Vienna

The Gulf Bank k.s.c.

IBJ International Limited

The Industrial Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.

International Financial Advisers K.S.C.

Kuwait International Finance Company S.A.K. "KIFCO"

London & Continental Bankers Limited

Manufacturers Hanover Limited

National Bank of Abu Dhabi

Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken

Societe Generale

(Bahrain Branch)

UBAN-Arab Japanese Finance Limited

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

U.S. DOLLAR STRAIGHTS

Change on Issued Bid Offer day week Yield

Alcoa Amalgam. 10 89 60 99 100 99 100 10.26

Alin. Hodder. 9% 81 30 98 99 99 100 10.08

Australian Res. 9% 84 30 98 99 99 100 10.08

Avco O/S Cap. 10% 87 40 99 99 99 10.08

Bayer Int. F. XW 74 89 200 99 99 100 10.01

Becton Dickinson 7% 84 100 99 99 99 10.01

CECA 9% 84-85 150 99 99 99 10.01

CECA 10% 91 150 97 99 99 10.01

Canadian Corp. 9% 83 50 97 99 99 10.05

Carroll. Harvey 9% 83 50 97 99 99 10.05

Continental Inv. 10% 84 100 97 99 99 10.05

Continental Grp. 9% 85 100 97 99 99 10.05

Dome Petroleum 10% 84 50 97 99 99 10.05

Dom. Credit. Corp. 9% 84 200 99 99 99 10.05

Dow Chemicals 9% 84 200 99 99 99 10.05

EIB 5% 86 150 99 99 99 10.05

EIB 5% 87 100 100 100 100 10.05

EIB 5% 88 100 100 100 100 10.05

EIB 5% 89 100 100 100 100 10.05

Export D. Corp. 8.85 84 100 100 100 100 10.05

Export Dv. Corp. 9% 84 100 97 99 99 10.05

Finland 5% 88 100 97 99 99 10.05

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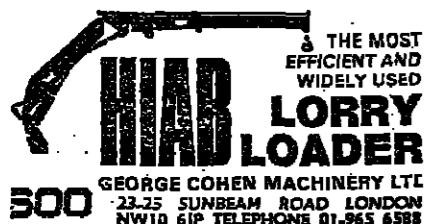
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Finland 5% 04



Monday August 13 1979

CBI warns unions on pay

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR EDITOR

TRADE UNIONS will have to accept pay increases well below the rise in prices over the last 12 months if they are to avoid serious loss of jobs and maintain their members' living standards, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

The CBI is seriously worried by business prospects for the next year. It is hoping that the Government's new take-home pay index will help divert attention from the 15 per cent plus inflation rate expected to emerge from official statistics this week, and will encourage union negotiators to stop using the Retail Prices Index as a prime bargaining counter.

Guidelines issued yesterday suggest that to employer yesterday suggest that the standard of living of the average married wage earner with two children will have fallen only 7.5 per cent since last August because of the income tax cuts and increase in child benefits.

Assuming a 16 per cent rate of inflation for the end of the

third quarter, the CBI has calculated that the fall in real net family income will range from 5.8 per cent for the family man on £2,500 a year to 9 per cent for the man on £10,000 a year.

Yesterday it called on the unions to make the same kind of sacrifice as they had under the social contract with Labour in 1975. This had reduced inflation from 25 per cent in 1975 to 7.5 per cent in 1978.

Challenge

But the unions are in no mood to repeat that gesture with a Conservative Government in power, if only because many were disillusioned by the lack of investment that followed the social contract period.

They are already preparing to challenge both the arithmetic of the Government's new index and the Government's entire financial policy towards the private and public sectors.

At a meeting last week of the

TUC economic committee, union leaders refused to accept that wages should again be held up as the only variable in the policy-equation.

They accused the Government of stoking up inflation by its Budget measures and of depressing the economy by cuts in the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

They predicted a financial crisis and a spate of bankruptcies that would force the Government into a policy U-turn within months. The Government would not be allowed by Congress to place the responsibility for its policies on the trade unions.

The CBI said yesterday that business would be sluggish over the next year, reducing companies' ability to pay, and that unemployment was likely to worsen, "possibly quite sharply".

The TUC, apparently using figures from the Manpower Services Commission, predicts unemployment of over 2m by early next year.

Be heard. Mr. Murray warn that pay claims of up to 40 per cent could be made this winter.

Single nuclear waste inquiry urged

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

GOVERNMENT PLANS to expand its geological research programme into a nationwide hunt for sites to bury radioactive waste have posed problems for the groups opposed to nuclear power.

They fear they will not have the resources to contest all 11 new areas for boreholes announced by the Environment Secretary last month as well as Department of Energy plans for two new demonstration reactors.

Their vigorous opposition to the four earlier locations selected for drilling helped secure the rejection of three of the four requests for planning permission.

The Town and Country Planning Association, one of the main opposition groups at the Windscale public inquiry in 1977, has proposed a single inquiry into those three areas and all 11 new areas. In a letter

to Mr. George Younger, the Scottish Secretary, released today, the Association urges a broadening of the impending public local inquiry into the application to drill in the Galloway Hills.

This inquiry follows the rejection last year of the UK Atomic Energy Authority's request for planning permission to search for suitable rock structures in which nuclear waste might eventually be buried.

Mr. David Hall, director of the association, has asked Mr. Younger to broaden the inquiry to ensure that the many national and even international aspects of the proposal are rigorously examined.

This would include the possibility of a British repository being used for stored EEC nuclear waste, since the UK drilling programme is part of a larger EEC effort.

In the association's view, a succession of local inquiries to drilling at three of the first four sites had been based on fundamental misunderstandings of the purpose and nature of the work.

His committee was set up last year, in response to the advice of the Flowers Report on Nuclear Power. This suggested that Britain was not putting a big enough research effort into the problem of radioactive waste disposal.

Mr. Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, said his aim was to demonstrate one or more methods during the 1980s, and to have a disposal facility in operation early next century.

Complaint

The Government's proposal to drill in 11 new areas, in addition to four already earmarked by the Institute of Geologists, followed a complaint from one of its advisers on nuclear waste, who said he would be unable to do his job unless the drilling programme went ahead.

Sir Denys Wilkinson, chairman of the Advisory Committee

New bid to stop gas complex

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

OBJECTORS to Shell and Esso's plan to build a £500m gas processing complex at Mossmorran, Fife, are to take legal action to overturn the planning consent given by the Government on Friday.

Mr. Dick Mehta, one of the group that has been fighting the project for three years, said yesterday it would be seeking senior counsel's opinion on how best to challenge the ruling by Mr. George Younger, Scottish Secretary.

"It is obvious to most people that while the Secretary of State says he has carefully considered the new evidence we have put to him since the public inquiry, this is not reflected in his decision," said Mr. Mehta.

Last year the group obtained an interdict (junction) from the High Court in Edinburgh to force the Government to study evidence produced by the protesters of explosion risks.

It included a report from consultants J. H. Burgoine and Partners, which indicated a high possibility of an explosion from the plant and a survey by the U.S. General Accounting Office, which concluded that gas liquids should be processed well away from areas of population.

Shell and Esso want to build a natural gas liquids separation plant to treat gases from the Brent Field.

Esso Chemicals confirmed yesterday that it wants to go ahead with the construction of

an ethane cracker alongside the separation plant to produce 500,000 tonnes of ethylene a year.

Mr. Jay Daigley, a director of the company said: "We can now begin the detailed process of design work, which will involve committing up to 100 engineers and other specialist people to the project.

"Our decision to proceed has been made in principle, although it is based on an assumption of satisfactory resolution of many detailed issues with the Government and the planning authorities.

For instance, receipt of the Development Grant is critical to the viability of the project.

"To date, more than £5m has

been spent on the project, but over the past year some momentum has been lost. Now that we have the final approval, the Esso Chemicals project team is anxious to get on with the job."

An agreement was being negotiated to give Shell Chemicals UK processing rights for up to 50 per cent of the ethylene-production capacity of the cracker in return for providing half of the £300m cost, said Mr. Daigley.

Ethylene is extensively used in Shell's north-west chemical plants. The 175,000 tonnes per annum Higher Olefins plant under construction at Stanlow, Cheshire, will be a major future consumer.

OECD expects deficit in Japan balance of payments soon

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER IN PARIS

JAPAN'S BALANCE of payments is expected to move into substantial deficit over the next 12 months after many years of large surpluses, according to the latest review of the Japanese economy published by the OECD today.

Though the report was prepared before the latest OPEC oil price rises at the end of 1978, it contains a short addendum adjusting the original forecasts which were based on the assumption that oil price increases in dollar terms would be no more than 25 per cent in 1979.

According to the earlier predictions, Japan's current surplus was expected to be reduced from \$16.5bn in 1978 to \$500m in 1979, but to increase again to \$2.5bn at an annual rate in the first half of 1980.

As a result of the latest OPEC decision on import prices in 1979 are now estimated to be some 35 per cent above the 1978 average. The mechanical effects of such a rise will have a nega-

tive impact on Japan's current account of some \$8bn to \$4bn over the 12 months up to mid-1980, which means that, by the end of this year, the deficit could be running at an annual rate of nearly \$3bn.

The latest oil price rises are also expected to add about 0.75 per cent to the domestic price level and reduce the growth of real GDP by 0.5 per cent over the same period. This will push up the rate of inflation in Japan to between 6.5 and 7 per cent and reduce the growth to something like 5 per cent at an annual rate by mid-1980.

The re-acceleration of growth initially foreseen in the first half of next year has now become unlikely.

The oil price increases threaten to partly neutralise what the OECD Secretariat describes as a number of remarkable developments in the Japanese economy during 1978 and early 1979, for which Japanese economic policy can take much of the credit.

Continued from Page 1

Take-home pay index

4 per cent, so that the 12 months rate of increase is likely to be boosted from 11.4 per cent in mid-June to between 14 and 16 per cent.

In the Budget, the Treasury forecast that the 12-month rate would rise to 17 per cent towards the end of the year. Since then, sterling has risen in value against other currencies, but crude oil prices have also increased sharply.

Last week the Treasury said that the two factors had probably about cancelled each other out, and that the earlier forecast was still valid.

Further evidence about the development of the UK economy will be provided this week by the publication of several major statistical indicators.

In particular, there will be close interest this afternoon in the retail sales index for July. This will show the level of spending after the pre-VAT rise boom. The industrial production index for June, also published this afternoon, will show whether activity is still recovering from the effects of the winter weather and strikes.

The money supply figures for

mid-July, due to be published on Thursday, are expected to show an increase of nearly 1 per cent in sterling M3, which includes cash and bank current and seven-day deposits accounts. This would still be above the official target rate of increase.

The City will be watching the extent to which the expansion of bank lending is now easing after the sharp rise of the early summer. The evidence so far suggests that demand for loans has subsided considerably, but that the corporate sector is still a heavy borrower.

Marathon to be sold in \$340m U.S. deal

By David Lascelles in New York

MARATHON MANUFACTURING, owner of the ailing Clydebank rig-building yard, is to be acquired by an unlikely purchaser, Penn Central Corporation, for \$340m (£150m).

Penn Central consists of the vestiges of the railway company whose financial collapse in 1970 marked the biggest bankruptcy in U.S. history. After massive legal proceedings, some still going on, the company emerged from reorganisation last October stripped of most of its rail assets, but with profitable interests in amusement parks, energy and real estate.

According to a joint announcement, Penn Central is to pay \$48 per Marathon share, and will operate the company as a wholly-owned subsidiary. Marathon's shares have recently been trading at \$42.

Mr. Gene Woodfin, chairman of Marathon, said: "This transaction is the culmination of a five-year plan to strengthen Marathon, and will enable shareholders to realise the inherent value of the company."

Marathon, based in Houston, is a leading producer of mobile offshore jack-up rigs. However, the recent softness of the world oil equipment market has given it some financial problems, notably at Clydebank, where the British Government intervened to keep the yard alive. That yard may now be sold.

Penn Central earned \$26m on revenues of \$460m in the first half of this year. There are no meaningful comparisons with the previous year's figures.

Tougher drink-drive law likely

By Paul Taylor

THE GOVERNMENT is considering new legislation to tighten up drink-driving laws in an attempt to reduce the increasing numbers of drink-related road accidents.

Mr. Norman Fowler, Transport Secretary, is believed to be waiting for the results of tests on new breathalyser devices whose results would be regarded as conclusive without the need for blood of urine samples before announcing specific proposals.

However, he is considering a range of measures aimed at curbing drink-driving, including closing loopholes in the 1967 Road Safety Act.

Beyond the new moves are two main concerns. First, in spite of the initial success of the Act in reducing the number of drink-related accidents involving motorists who had been drinking, there is evidence that the penalties in the Act no longer appear to be an effective deterrent. Second, motorists have become extremely successful in finding loopholes in the original legislation.

The very large current surplus of the first half of 1978 virtually disappeared by the spring of 1979, partly as the result of emergency import restrictions, but mainly because of the growth of domestic demand and the expansionary measures adopted by the Japanese Government last autumn.

The latest oil price rises are also expected to add about 0.75 per cent to the domestic price level and reduce the growth of real GDP by 0.5 per cent over the same period. This will push up the rate of inflation in Japan to between 6.5 and 7 per cent and reduce the growth to something like 5 per cent at an annual rate by mid-1980.

As a result of the latest OPEC decision on import prices in 1979 are now estimated to be some 35 per cent above the 1978 average. The mechanical effects of such a rise will have a nega-

THE LEX COLUMN

Banking 'corset' fitting service

The other day I overheard a conversation at the Overseas Bankers Club when it was suggested that big customers can be persuaded to switch their overdrafts to commercial bills and this helps banks get round the corset. Can you tell me if this is true? A.T., Lombard Street, E.C.3.

This is something well worth investigating and may give a clue on why the figures for the total banking sector's interest-bearing eligible liabilities overstates the seriousness of the banks' position vis-a-vis the corset.

All banks have a big incentive to maximise their non-interest-bearing eligible liabilities and the more banking subsidiaries they have the better. National Westminster, for example, has over a dozen ranging from Coutts Finance Company to the Isle of Man Bank Ltd. If one subsidiary is comfortably within its corset limits it may be encouraged to raise extra deposits and lend them on a non-interest-bearing basis to another part of the group. Some small subsidiaries may not even count for the corset.

An Irishman at my golf club has told me that banks in Northern Ireland do not count in the corset calculations. Is there any way of swapping deposits with our Belfast branches over make-up day, and do you think the Bank of England would wear it? R.L.P., Lombard Street, E.C.3.

It is surprising that the Bank of England has not publicly criticised the banks' over-rapid growth in bank acceptances so far. When the corset was introduced in December, 1973, the banks in Northern Ireland have been exempted from the scheme although no one is quite sure why. I wonder if Michael and National Westminster own the Northern Bank and the Ulster Bank respectively. The banks are on their honour not to abuse their privilege, and anyway it would soon start showing in the statistics since the Northern Irish banks account for only two per cent of total eligible liabilities.

Special offers

Some of our big corporate customers tell us they are being approached with strange propositions by certain of the big London banks. It seems they are offering rebates of some kind if they will switch their deposits temporarily into non-interest bearing form. It occurs to me that this could be something to do with the banking corset. I wonder if you agree and if we should make the same kind of offer? M.H., Edinburgh.

Judging by the rapid growth of non-interest bearing deposits since the corset was introduced they have risen more than 50 per cent in the last year. We hope that you would ask us that one. How about issuing a tap stock on make-up days such as on August 15?



BANCA NAZIONALE DELL'AGRICOLTURA

Registered Office and Head Office: Rome

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 30, 1979

1. The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura, held in Rome on April 30, 1979, approved the Balance Sheet for the financial year 1978, showing a net profit of 15.6 billion lire after provision for appropriations, bringing the Bank's capital and reserves to almost 170 billion lire. The Meeting resolved upon the distribution of a dividend of 175 lire on each 500 lire share.
2. During 1978, the Bank proceeded with the policy of selective diversification of the sources of deposits and of lending operations. At the year-end private customers accounted for 69.1 per cent, businesses for 24.6 per cent and the public sector for 6.3 per cent of total deposits. The breakdown of loans outstanding at the close of the financial year was as follows: private customers 5.9 per cent, businesses 92 per cent and the public sector 2.1 per cent.
3. As at December 31, 1978, total operating funds amounted to 7,500 billion lire (+33.8 per cent versus end-1977), including customers' deposits for 5,000 billion lire (+23.2 per cent). At 3,100 billion lire, lendings to customers show an increase of 17.1 per cent compared with the position at end-1977.
4. The Meeting also resolved upon the increase of the share capital of the Bank from 24 billion to 36 billion lire, through the issuance of 24 million new 500 lire shares, ranking for dividend as of January 1, 1979: for every four shares held at the date of the Meeting, Shareholders are assigned one free-issue share and the option to subscribe one rights-issue share.
5. The Meeting then proceeded to the appointment of a Director, in the person of Giuseppe Pirozzi, who had already been co-opted by the Board of Directors.
6. The Board of Directors is now composed as follows: Giovanni Auletta, Chairman; Ennio Barilla and Alfonso Gaetani, Vice-Chairmen; Goffredo Gambarara and Ulpiano Quaranta, Managing Directors; Enzo Badioli, Enrico Bassi, Mario Carrobbio, Domenico Genoese, Zerbini, Pier